

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

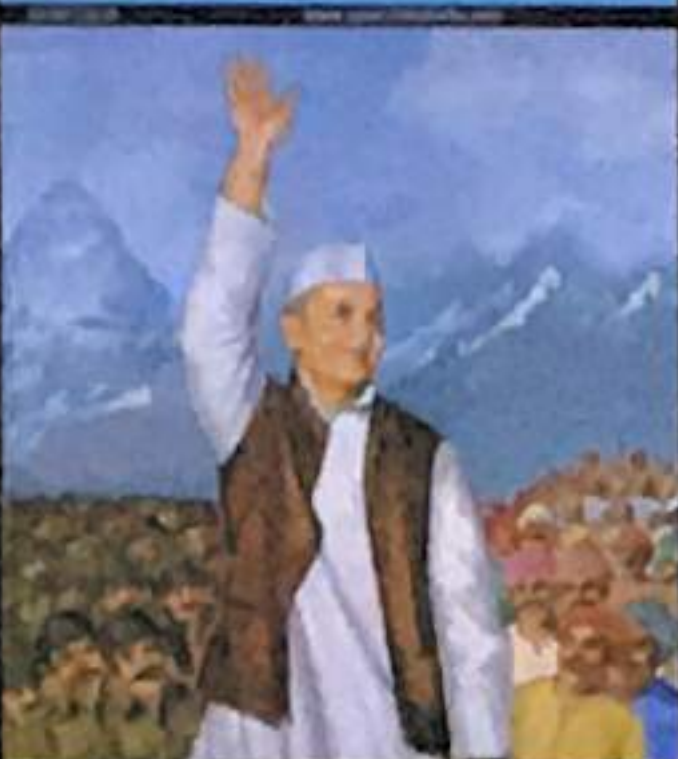
From his father he learned social etiquette; from his mother, India's age-old philosophy and culture. From his Muslim mentor he learned to respect different faiths, and from his English tutor the best of Western and Indian thought. But none of them could have moulded the young Jawaharlal Nehru into the fiercely idealistic Indian so famous throughout the world today – that distinction he achieved by his own intelligence, keen observation and hard work.

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VISIONARIES



JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

THE EARLY DAYS

Vol 700 | ₹50



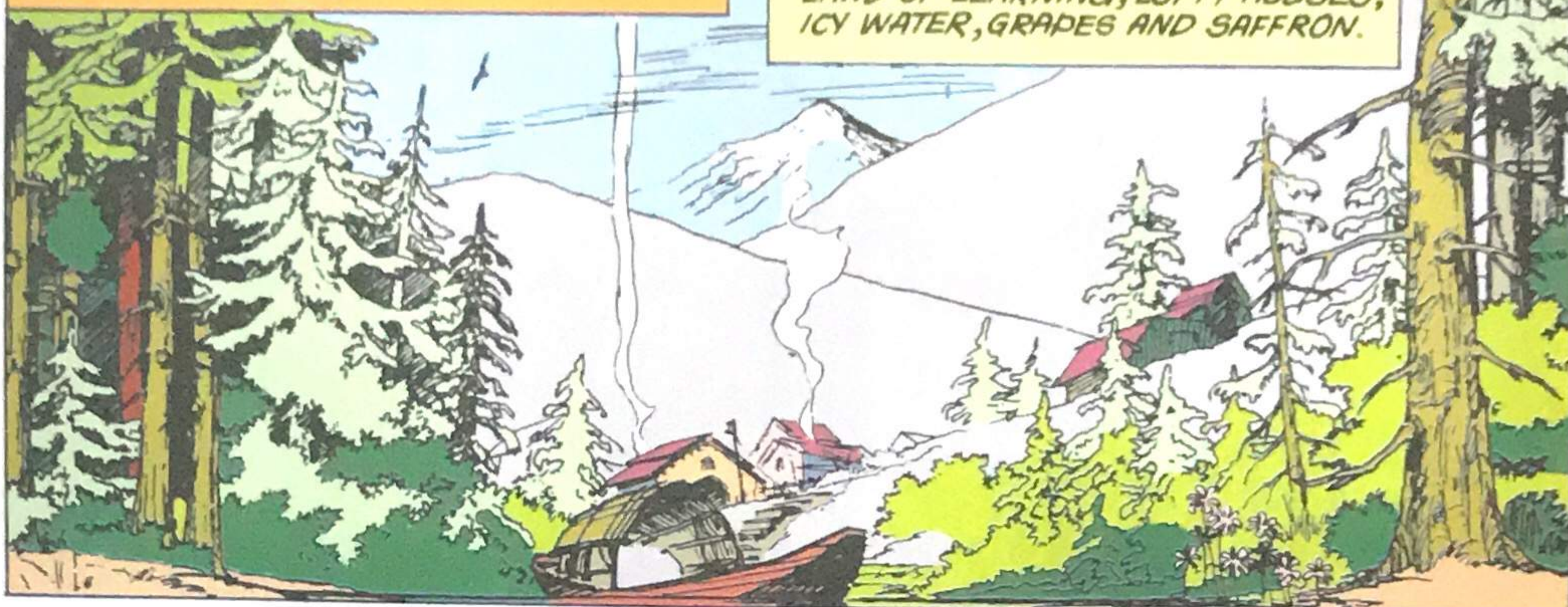
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JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: THE EARLY DAYS

THE YEAR WAS 1716. THE PLACE, THE LUSH VALLEY OF KASHMIR, THE LAND OF LEARNING, LOFTY HOUSES, ICY WATER, GRAPE AND SAFFRON.



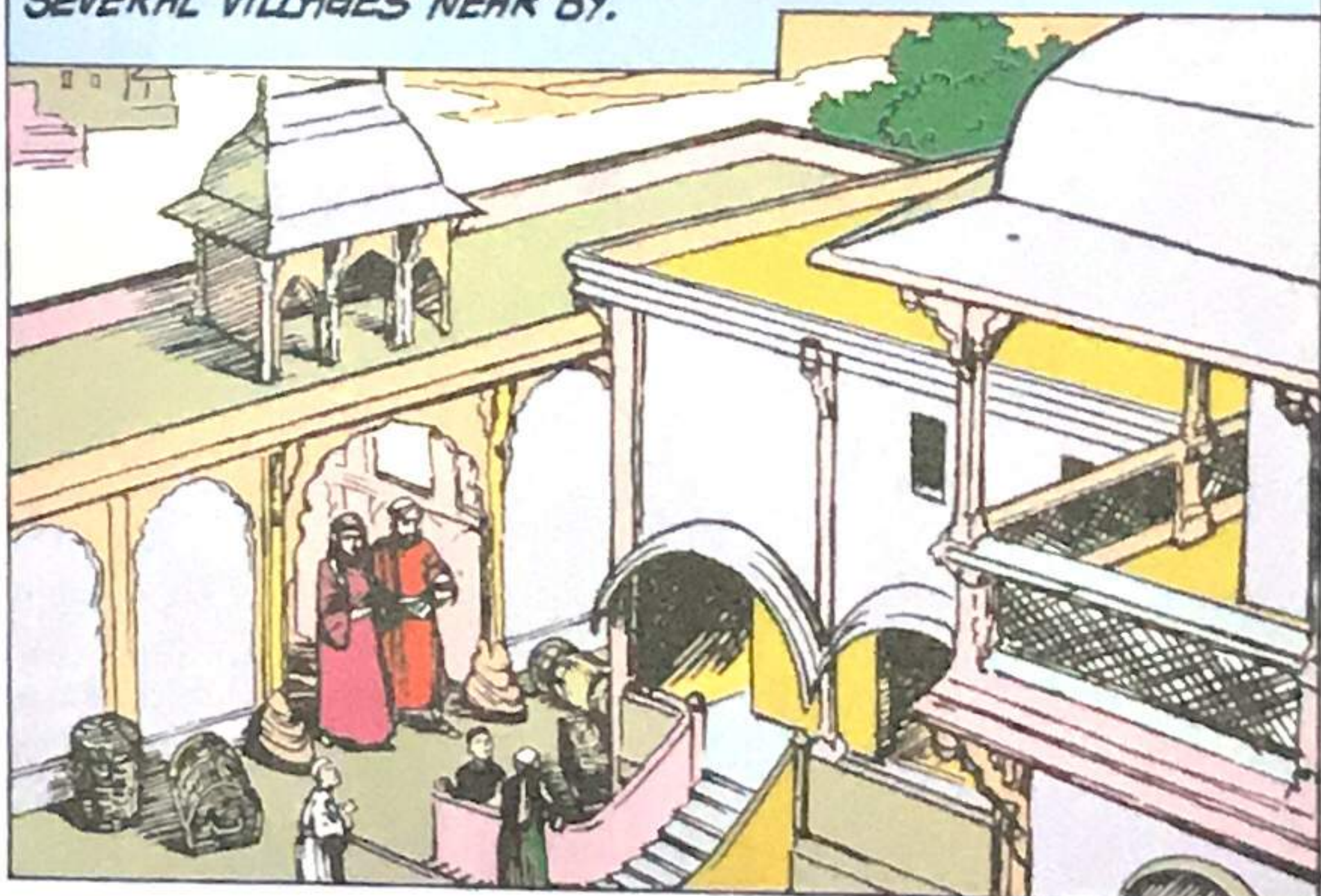
RAJ KAUL, AN EMINENT SANSKRIT AND PERSIAN SCHOLAR, MADE A MOMENTOUS DECISION.

I MUST GO TO DELHI TO PAY MY RESPECTS TO EMPEROR FARUKHSIAR. IF HE ACCEPTS ME IN HIS COURT,

WE MAY ALL HAVE TO EMIGRATE.

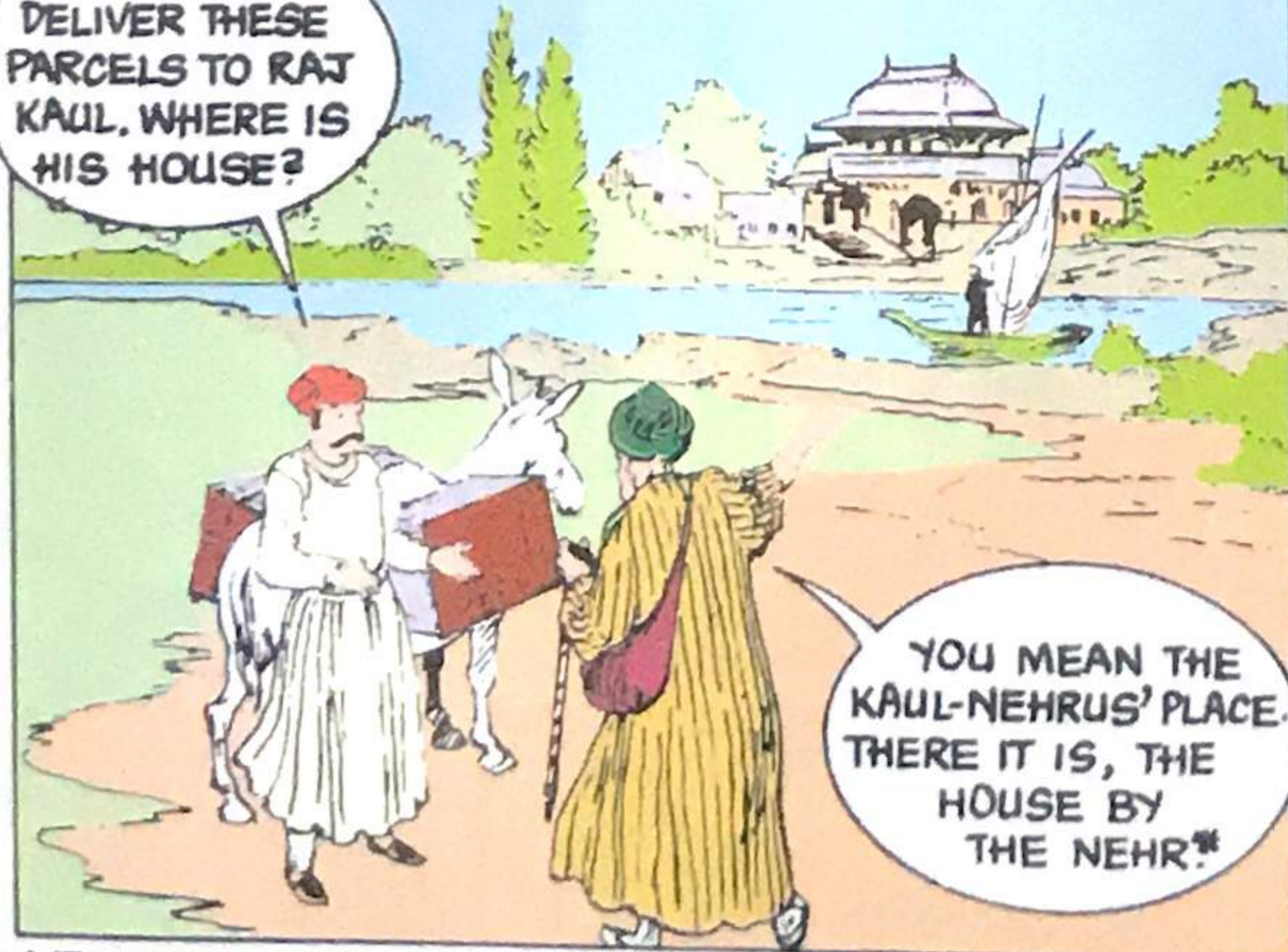
OH, DEAR! TO LEAVE OUR LOVELY VALLEY AND LIVE IN THE HOT PLAINS!

BUT EMIGRATE THEY DID. EMPEROR FARUKHSIAR GRANTED A JAGIR TO RAJ KAUL. IT CONSISTED OF A LARGE HOUSE AND SEVERAL VILLAGES NEAR BY.



BEFORE LONG, THE FAMILY SETTLED DOWN IN THE CAPITAL, IN A HOUSE ON THE BANKS OF A CANAL.

I HAVE TO DELIVER THESE PARCELS TO RAJ KAUL. WHERE IS HIS HOUSE?



YOU MEAN THE KAUL-NEHRUS' PLACE. THERE IT IS, THE HOUSE BY THE NEHR.*

FOR SEVERAL DECADES, THE KAUL-NEHRUS, AS THEY CAME TO BE KNOWN, CONTINUED TO LIVE IN DELHI. BUT BY 1850, THE FAMILY FORTUNES HAD DWINDLED CONSIDERABLY. GANGA DHAR NEHRU, A DESCENDANT OF RAJ KAUL, WAS A KOTWAL OR POLICE SUPERINTENDENT IN DELHI.



* THE WORD NEHRU HAD ITS ORIGIN IN THE WORD NEHR WHICH MEANS CANAL.

THE REVOLT OF 1857 SHOOK DELHI. THERE WAS MUCH BLOOD-SHED AND CHAOS. MANY PEOPLE FLED THE CITY, FOR SAFETY. AMONG THEM WAS THE KOTWAL—

IT IS NO LONGER SAFE TO LIVE IN DELHI, INDRANI, WE WILL LEAVE FOR AGRA AT ONCE. GET THE CHILDREN READY.

BANSI DHAR! NANDLAL! COME AND HELP YOUR FATHER TO PACK. I MUST GET THE TWO GIRLS READY.

SO GANGA DHAR AND HIS FAMILY SET OUT FOR AGRA.

STOP!

WHO IS THIS LITTLE GIRL?
SHE IS MY SISTER SIR.
SISTER, INDEED!

YOU THINK I CANNOT RECOGNIZE THE FAIR SKIN AND CHESTNUT HAIR OF AN ENGLISH GIRL?
ARREST HIM! HE MUST HAVE KIDNAPPED HER!

LIAR! I WILL HAVE YOU HANGED FROM THE NEAREST TREE!
BUT, BUT SIR, WE KASHMIRIS ALSO HAVE SUCH FAIR SKINS.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, NAND? WHY IS THE OFFICER TAKING YOUR SISTER PATRANI AWAY?
ALL RIGHT. PROCEED!

IT WAS NOT AN EMPTY THREAT. IN THOSE TROUBLED TIMES, ACCUSATION WAS RAPIDLY FOLLOWED BY PUNISHMENT BY BRITISH SOLDIERS. FORTUNATELY AN ACQUAINTANCE PASSED BY—

SEE! HE KNOWS SHE IS MY SISTER. PLEASE ALLOW US TO GO!
NANDLAL'S KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH SAVED THE SITUATION.

ON REACHING AGRA, THEY HAD TO BEGIN LIFE AFRESH. IN 1861, AT THE AGE OF 34, GANGA DHAR DIED. INDRANI CALLED HER TWO SONS.

NOW THAT YOUR FATHER IS NO MORE, YOU WILL HAVE TO SUPPORT THE FAMILY, BANSI DHAR.

YES, MA, I WILL TRY FOR A JOB IN THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

THREE MONTHS LATER, A THIRD SON, MOTILAL, WAS BORN TO INDRANI. MEANWHILE BANSI DHAR HAD SECURED A JOB AS A JUDGEMENT WRITER AND LATER ROSE TO BE A SUBORDINATE JUDGE.

NANDLAL BECAME A TUTOR TO RAJA FATEH SINGH OF KHETRI, A SMALL STATE IN RAJASTHAN, AND EVENTUALLY BECAME HIS CHIEF MINISTER.

AT THE KHETRI COURT MOTILAL STUDIED ARABIC AND PERSIAN. LATER, HE JOINED HIGH SCHOOL AT KANPUR, WHERE BANSI DHAR HAD BEEN POSTED.

AFTER THE DEATH OF THE RAJA OF KHETRI, NANDLAL QUALIFIED AS A LAWYER AND SET UP PRACTICE IN AGRA.

MOTILAL RECEIVED HIS COLLEGE EDUCATION AT MUIR COLLEGE IN ALLAHABAD.

THE HIGH COURT IS BEING SHIFTED TO ALLAHABAD.
WE WILL HAVE TO GO AND SETTLE THERE.
YES, NANDLAL, SINCE BANSIDHAR IS OFTEN TRANSFERRED, IT IS BETTER FOR ALL OF US TO BE WITH YOU.

TOMORROW YOU MUST GO TO AGRA TO APPEAR FOR YOUR B.A. EXAM, MOTILAL. I HOPE YOU DO WELL.
I HOPE SO, TOO, PROFESSOR HARRISON.

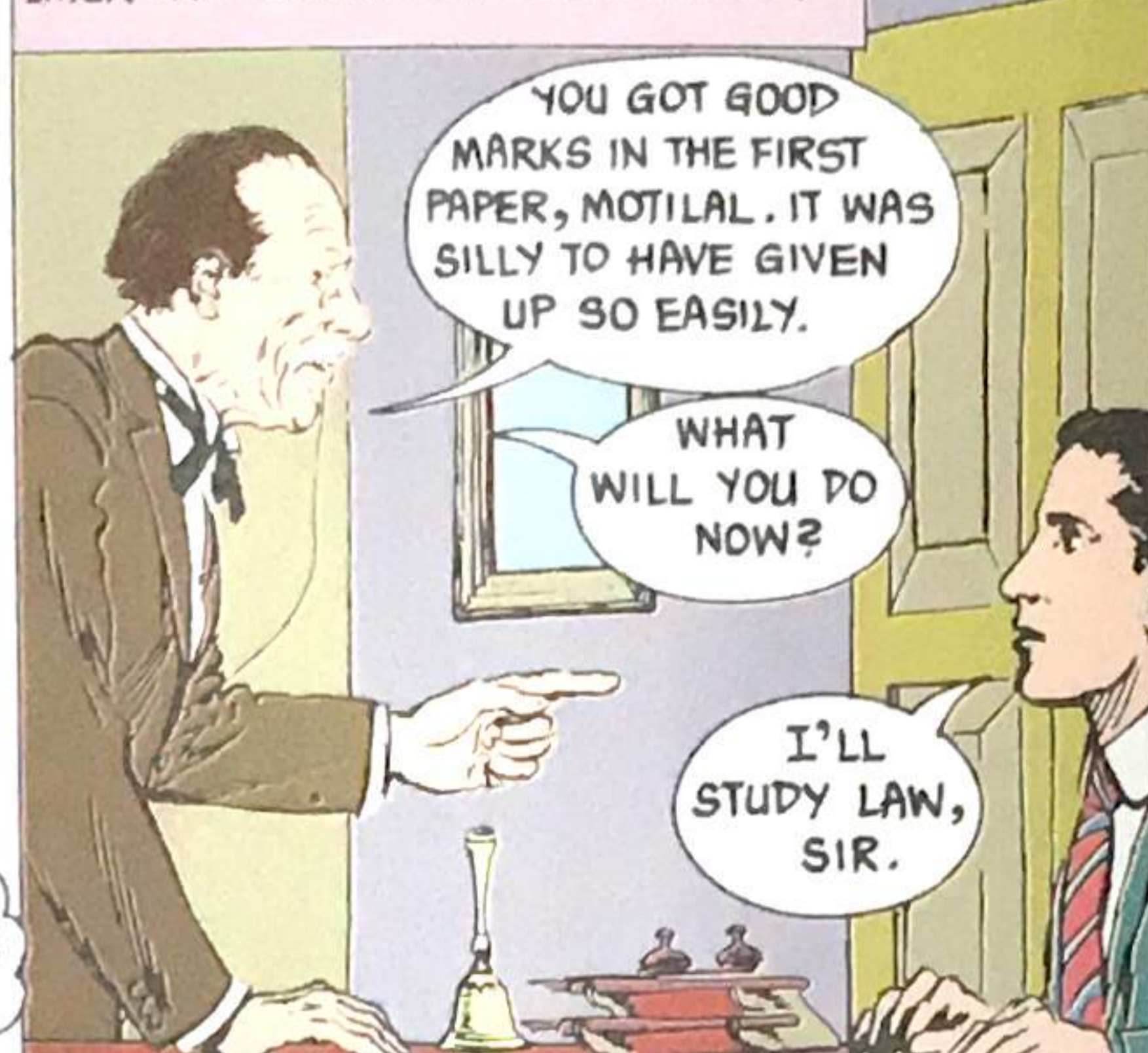
BUT IN AGRA —

OH, MY FIRST PAPER WAS A DISASTER. I'LL SURELY FAIL. IT'S A WASTE OF TIME APPEARING FOR THE OTHER PAPERS...



I THINK I'LL GO AND ADMIRE THE TAJ MAHAL INSTEAD.

LATER HIS PROFESSOR HAULED HIM UP.

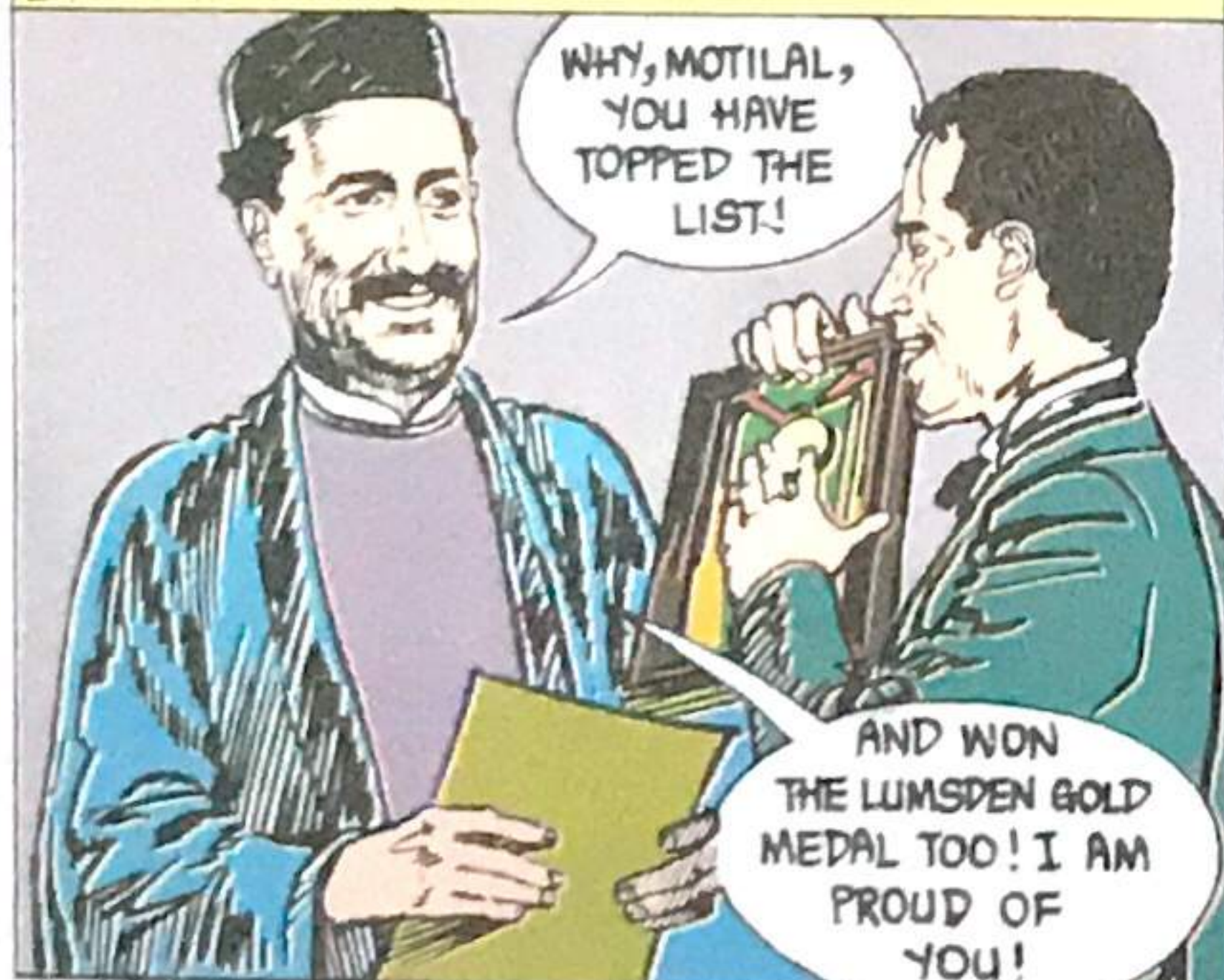


YOU GOT GOOD MARKS IN THE FIRST PAPER, MOTILAL. IT WAS SILLY TO HAVE GIVEN UP SO EASILY.

WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?

I'LL STUDY LAW, SIR.

HE APPEARED FOR THE HIGH COURT VAKIL'S EXAMINATION.



WHY, MOTILAL, YOU HAVE TOPPED THE LIST!

AND WON THE LUMSDEN GOLD MEDAL TOO! I AM PROUD OF YOU!

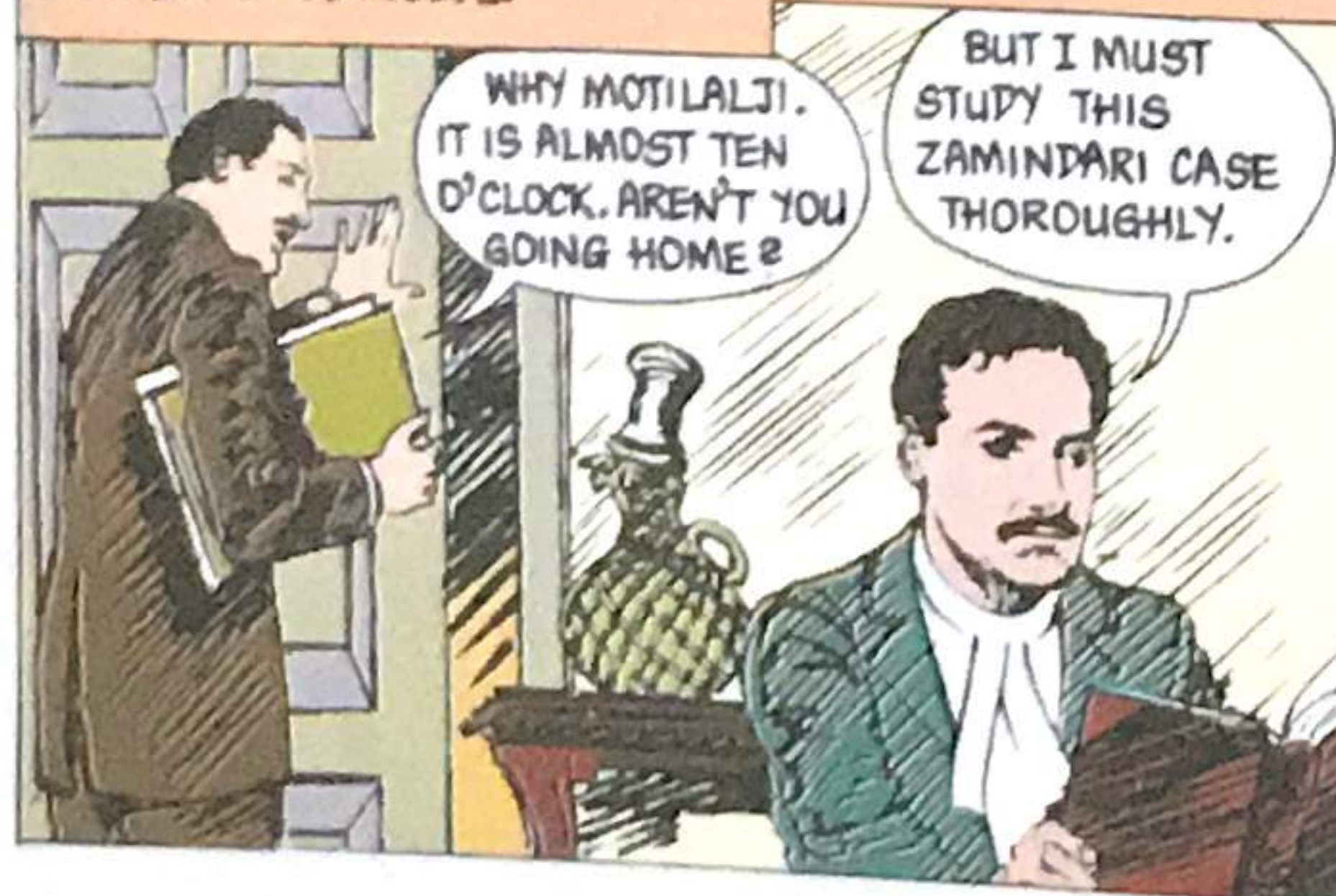
MOTILAL BEGAN TO PRACTISE LAW AS A JUNIOR IN THE OFFICE OF A FAMILY FRIEND. HE DIVIDED HIS TIME BETWEEN LAW AND SPORTS.



I MUST FINISH THIS BRIEF QUICKLY.

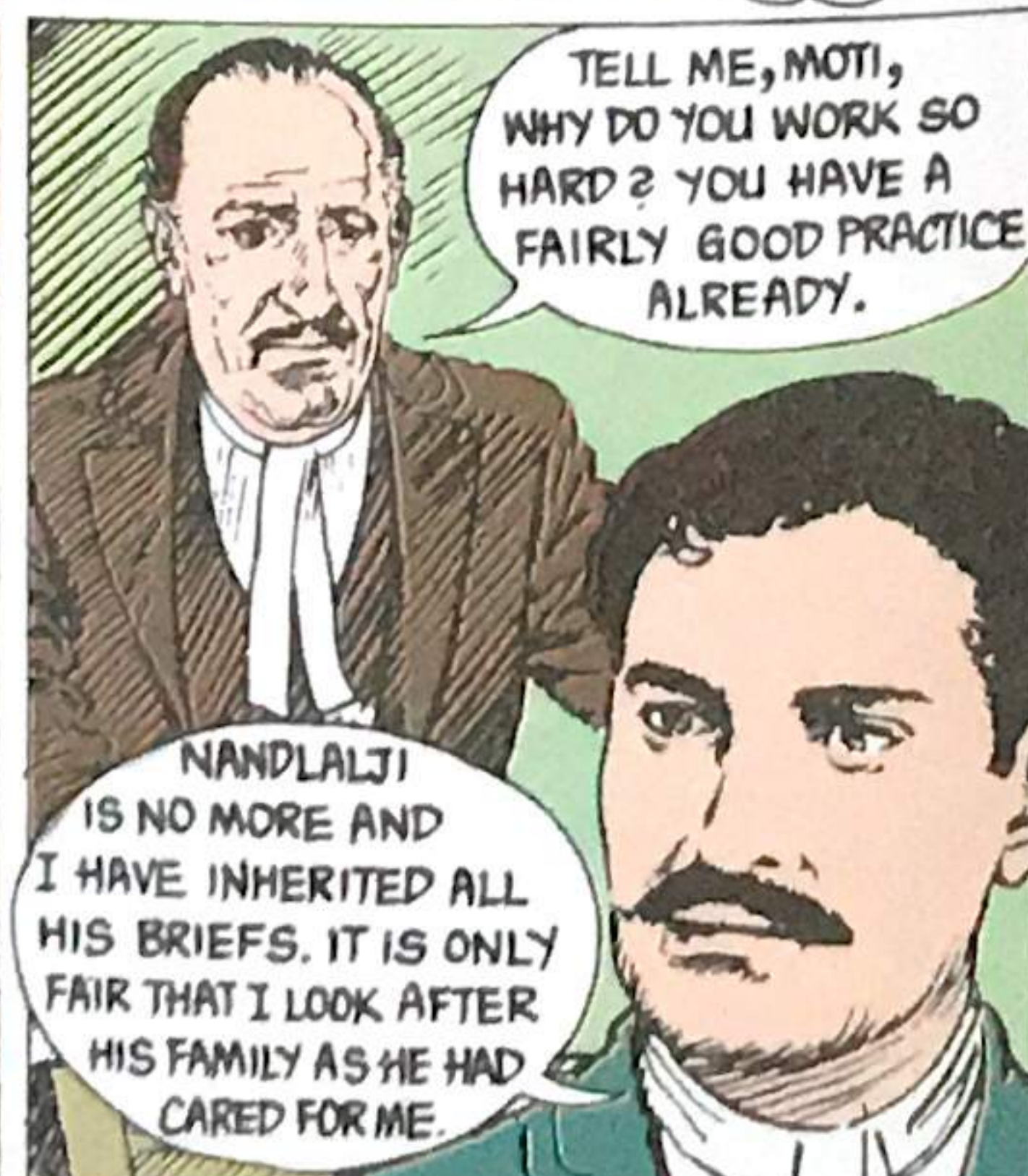
TONIGHT'S WRESTLING WILL BE TOO EXCITING TO MISS.

HE WAS JOLTED OUT OF HIS PLACID EXISTENCE BY THE DEATH OF HIS BROTHER NANDLAL, WHO HAD BEEN LIKE A FATHER TO HIM. AT THE AGE OF 25, IN 1887, MOTILAL FOUND HIMSELF TO BE THE HEAD OF A LARGE JOINT FAMILY INCLUDING THE SEVEN CHILDREN OF NANDLAL.



WHY MOTILALJI, IT IS ALMOST TEN O'CLOCK. AREN'T YOU GOING HOME?

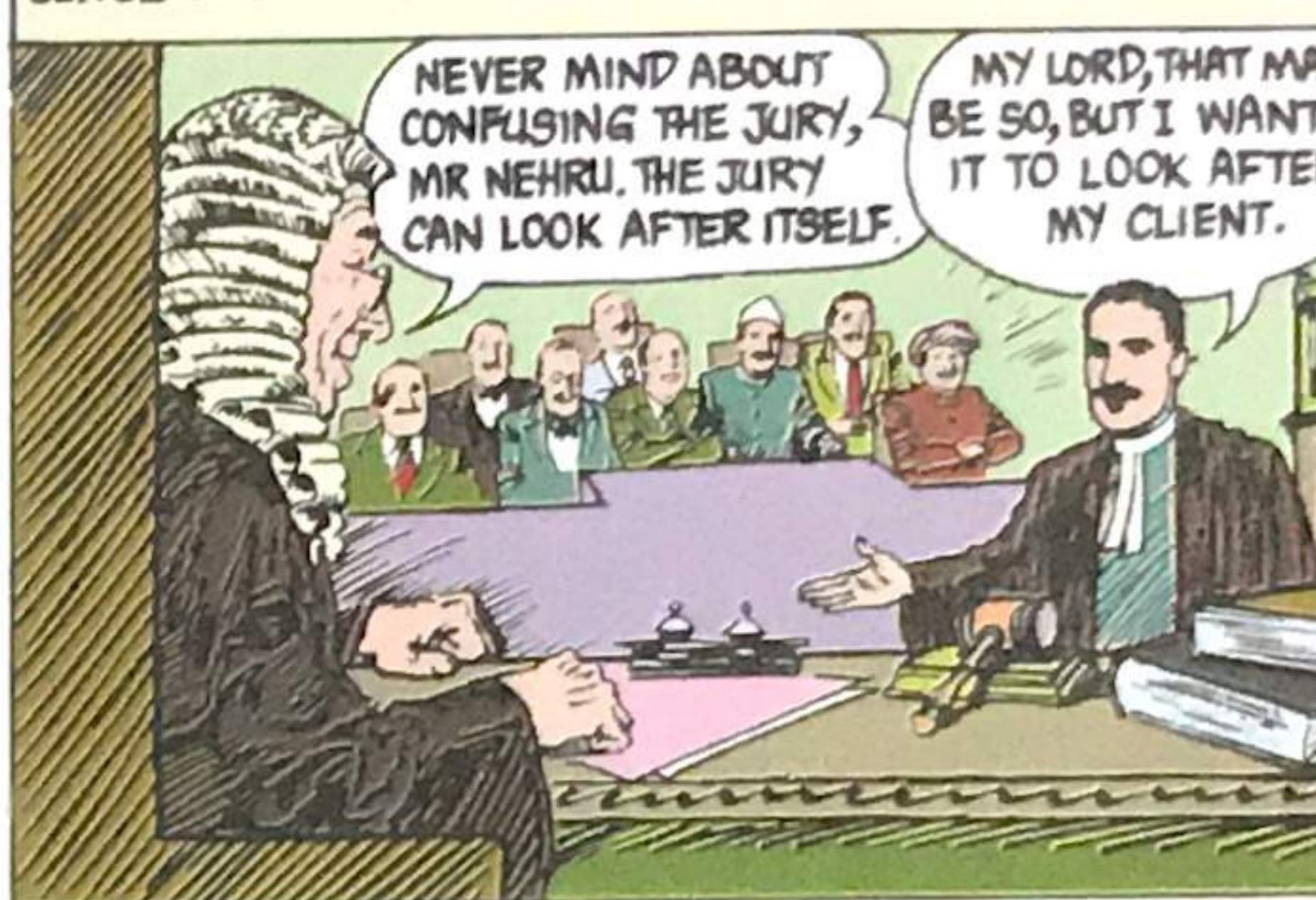
BUT I MUST STUDY THIS ZAMINDARI CASE THOROUGHLY.



TELL ME, MOTI, WHY DO YOU WORK SO HARD? YOU HAVE A FAIRLY GOOD PRACTICE ALREADY.

NANDLALJI IS NO MORE AND I HAVE INHERITED ALL HIS BRIEFS. IT IS ONLY FAIR THAT I LOOK AFTER HIS FAMILY AS HE HAD CARED FOR ME.

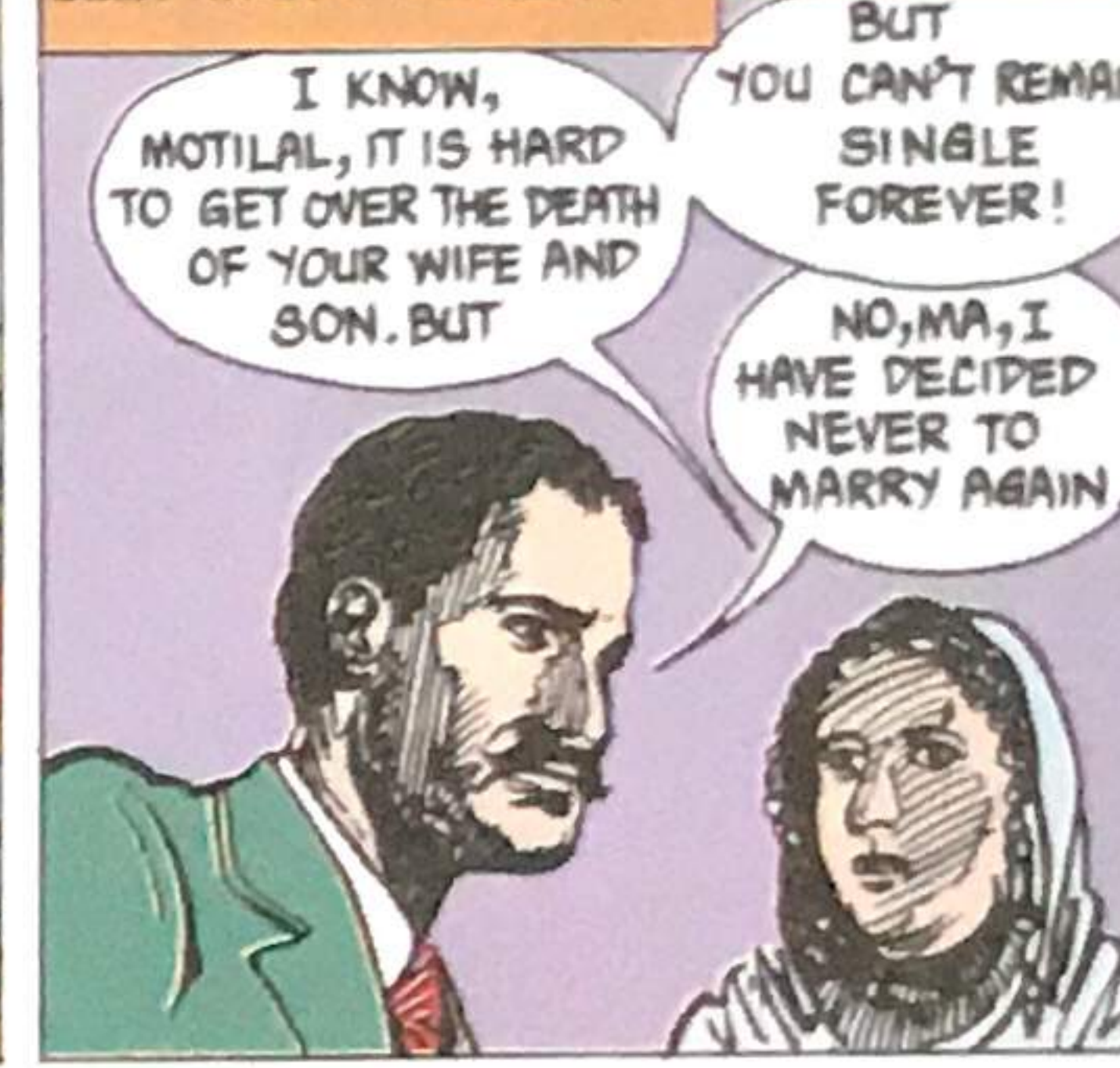
MOTILAL POSSESSED NATURAL SHREWDNESS, SOUND COMMON SENSE AND PERSUASIVE MANNERS. BUT IT WAS SHEER HARD WORK THAT BROUGHT HIM TO THE TOP IN HIS PROFESSION. HIS SENSE OF HUMOUR ENLIVENED THE COURTROOMS.



NEVER MIND ABOUT CONFUSING THE JURY, MR NEHRU. THE JURY CAN LOOK AFTER ITSELF.

MY LORD, THAT MAY BE SO, BUT I WANT IT TO LOOK AFTER MY CLIENT.

HIS PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS WAS RAPID AND SPECTACULAR. BUT HIS PERSONAL LIFE HAD BEEN HIT BY A TRAGEDY.



I KNOW, MOTILAL, IT IS HARD TO GET OVER THE DEATH OF YOUR WIFE AND SON. BUT

BUT YOU CAN'T REMAIN SINGLE FOREVER!

NO, MA, I HAVE DECIDED NEVER TO MARRY AGAIN.

BUT HE WAS PERSUADED TO MARRY SWARUP THUSSU, A DELICATE BEAUTY WITH HAZEL EYES AND THICK CHESTNUT HAIR.

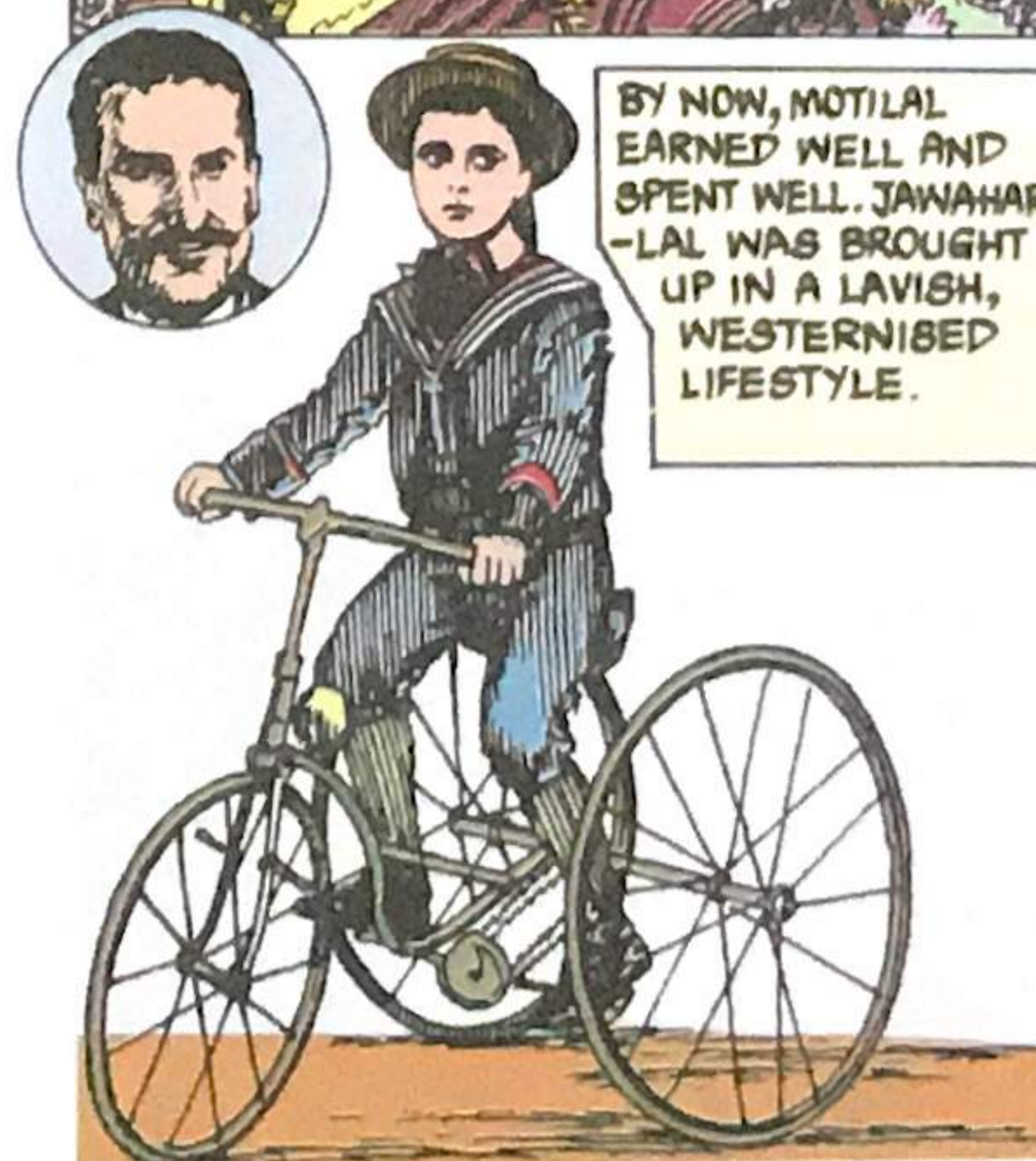


ON NOVEMBER 14, 1889, AT 11.30 P.M. A SON WAS BORN TO THEM. HE WAS CALLED JAWAHARLAL.

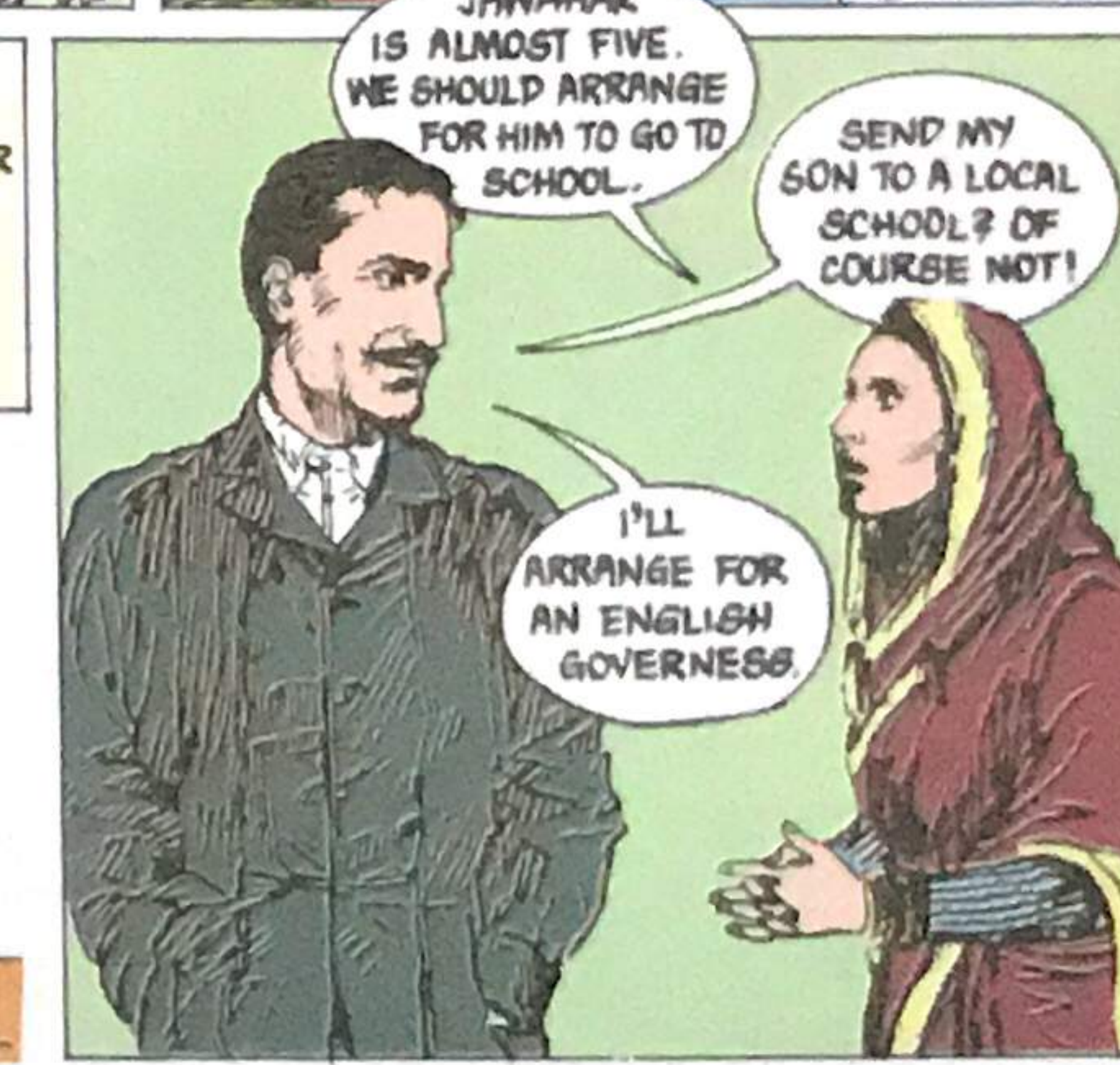


JAWAHAR IS ALMOST FIVE. WE SHOULD ARRANGE FOR HIM TO GO TO SCHOOL.

SEND MY SON TO A LOCAL SCHOOL? OF COURSE NOT!



BY NOW, MOTILAL EARNED WELL AND SPENT WELL. JAWAHAR - LAL WAS BROUGHT UP IN A LAVISH, WESTERNISED LIFESTYLE.

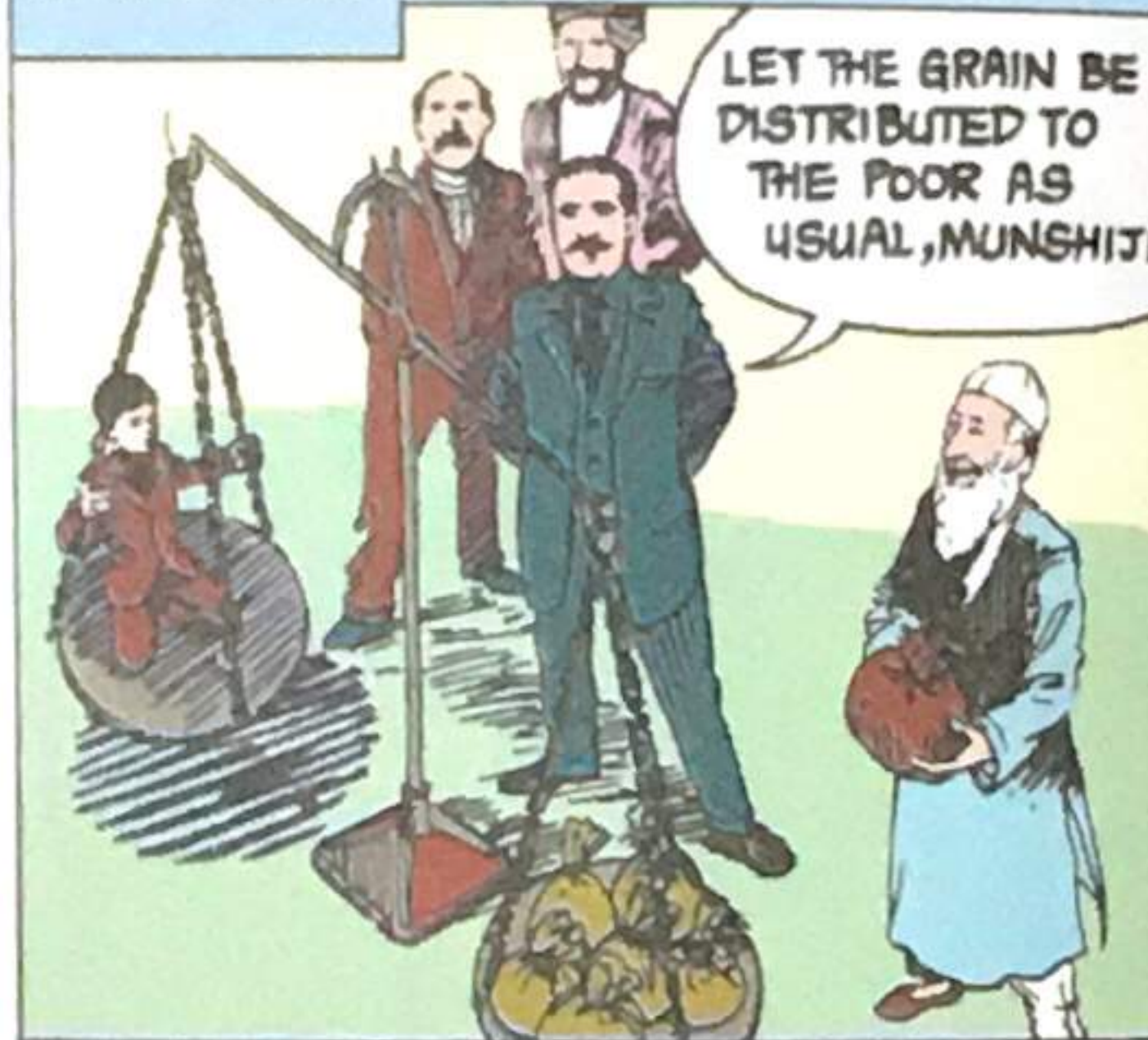


I'LL ARRANGE FOR AN ENGLISH GOVERNESS.

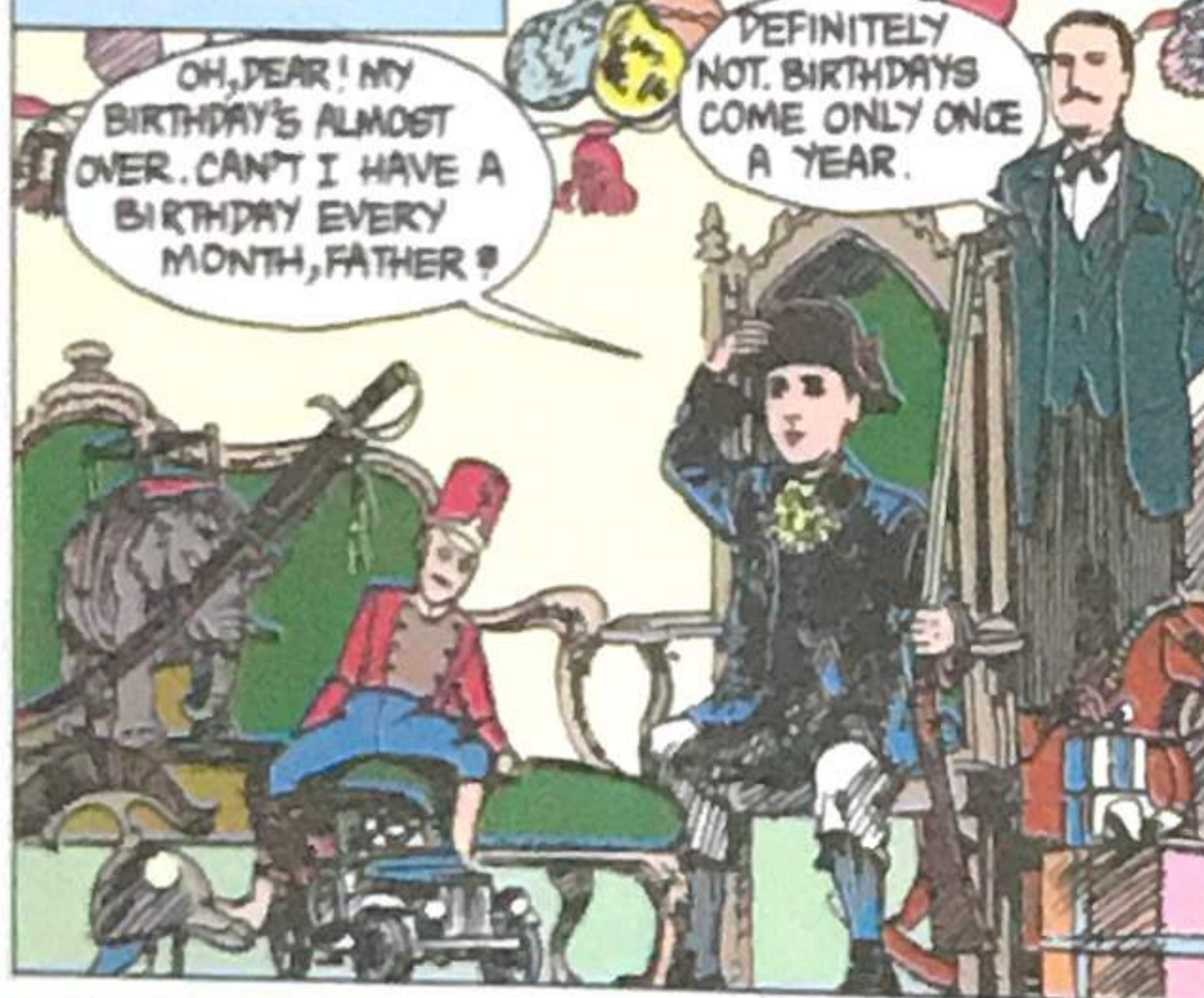
SO, EXCEPT FOR A BRIEF PERIOD WHEN HE ATTENDED A LOCAL CONVENT SCHOOL ALONG WITH A COUSIN, MOST OF JAWAHAR'S EARLY EDUCATION WAS AT HOME WITH A SERIES OF GOVERNESSES.



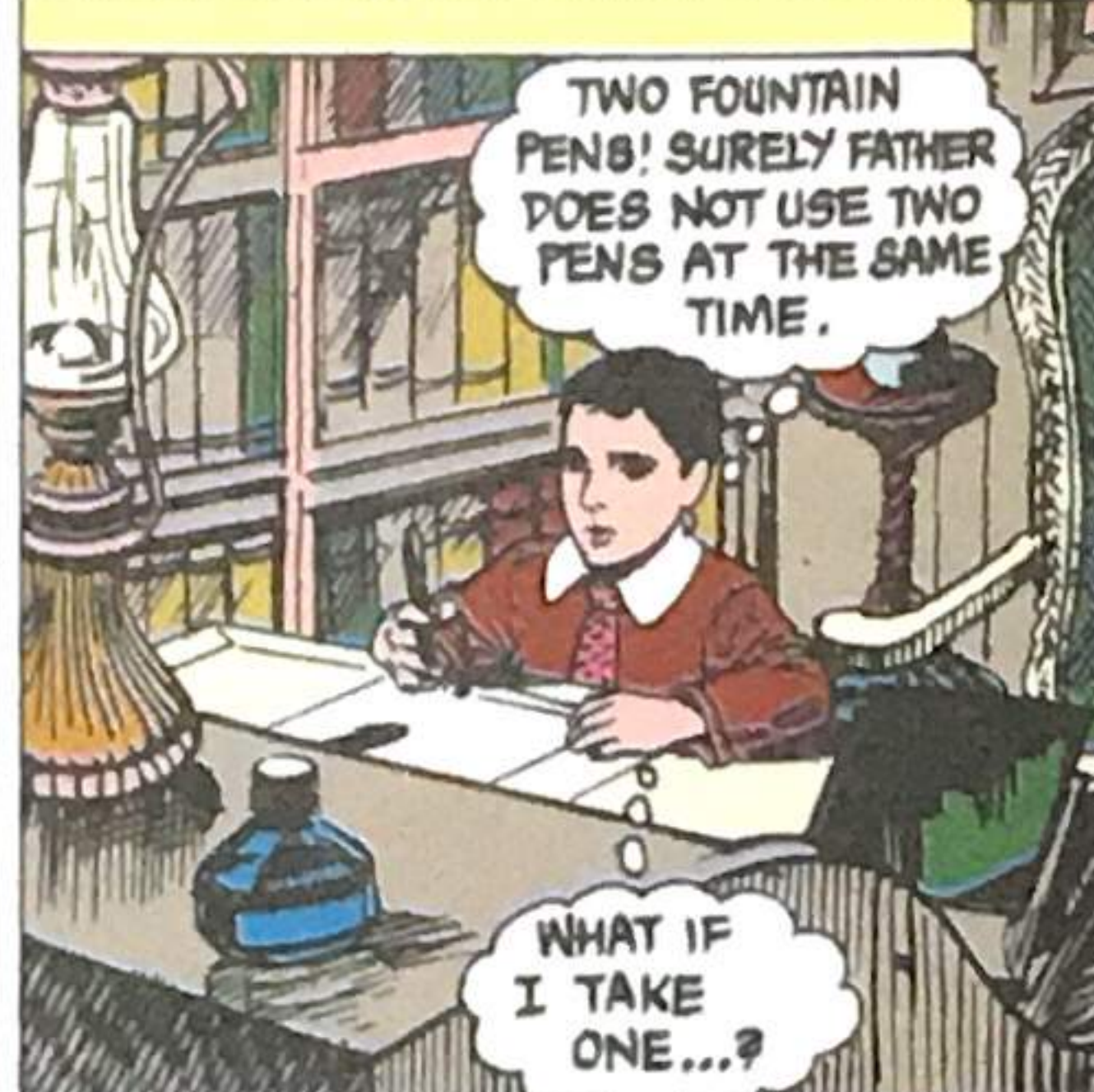
BIRTHDAYS WERE VERY SPECIAL DAYS. EARLY IN THE MORNING JAWAHAR WOULD BE WEIGHED ON HUGE SCALES.



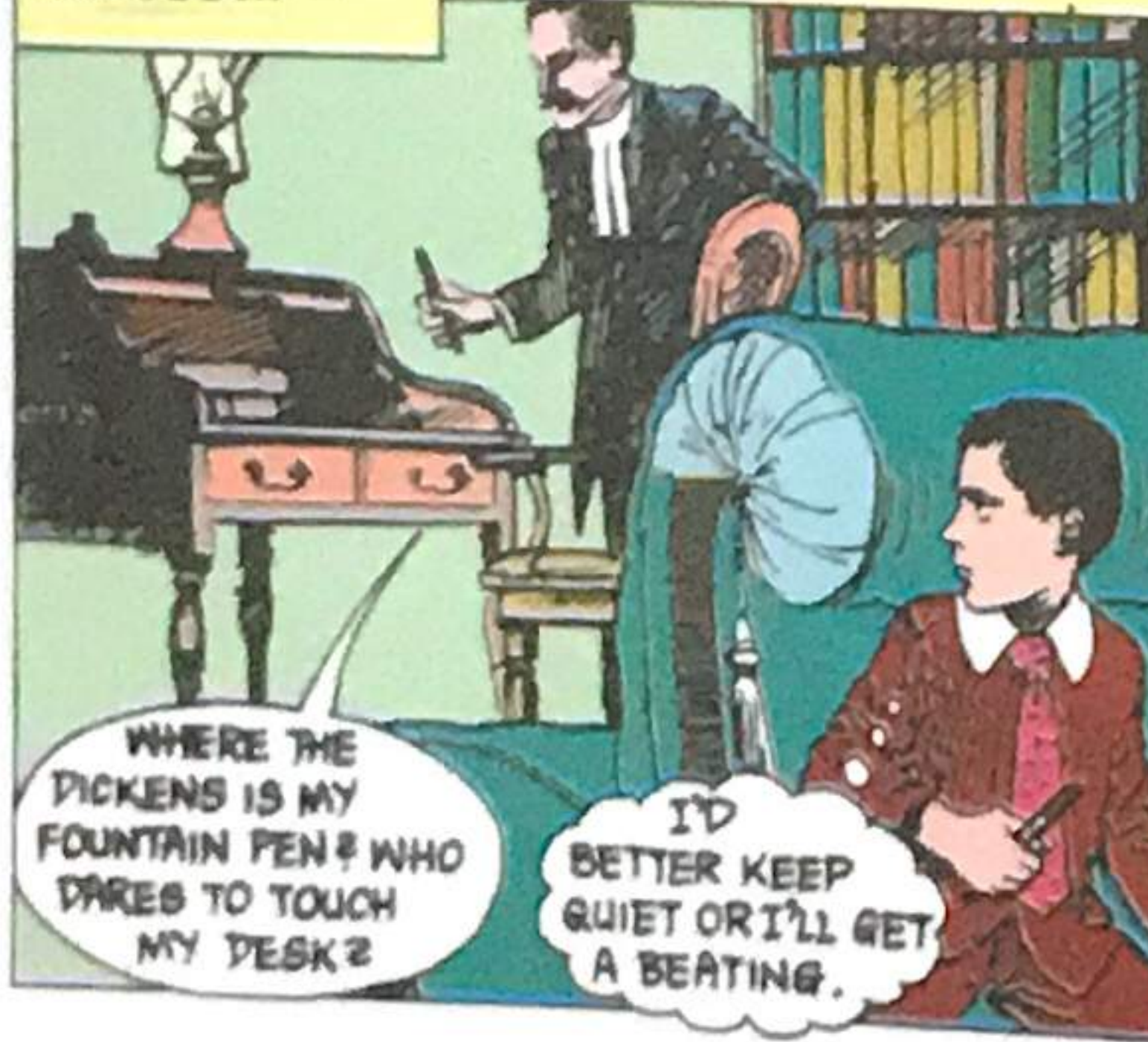
LATER IN THE DAY, THERE WOULD BE GENEROUS PRESENTS AND A LAVISH PARTY.



MOTILAL WAS A LOVING BUT STRICT PARENT. ONE DAY WHEN HE WAS ABOUT SIX, JAWAHAR WANDERED INTO HIS FATHER'S STUDY.



QUICKLY JAWAHAR HELPED HIMSELF TO ONE OF THE PENS. SOON—



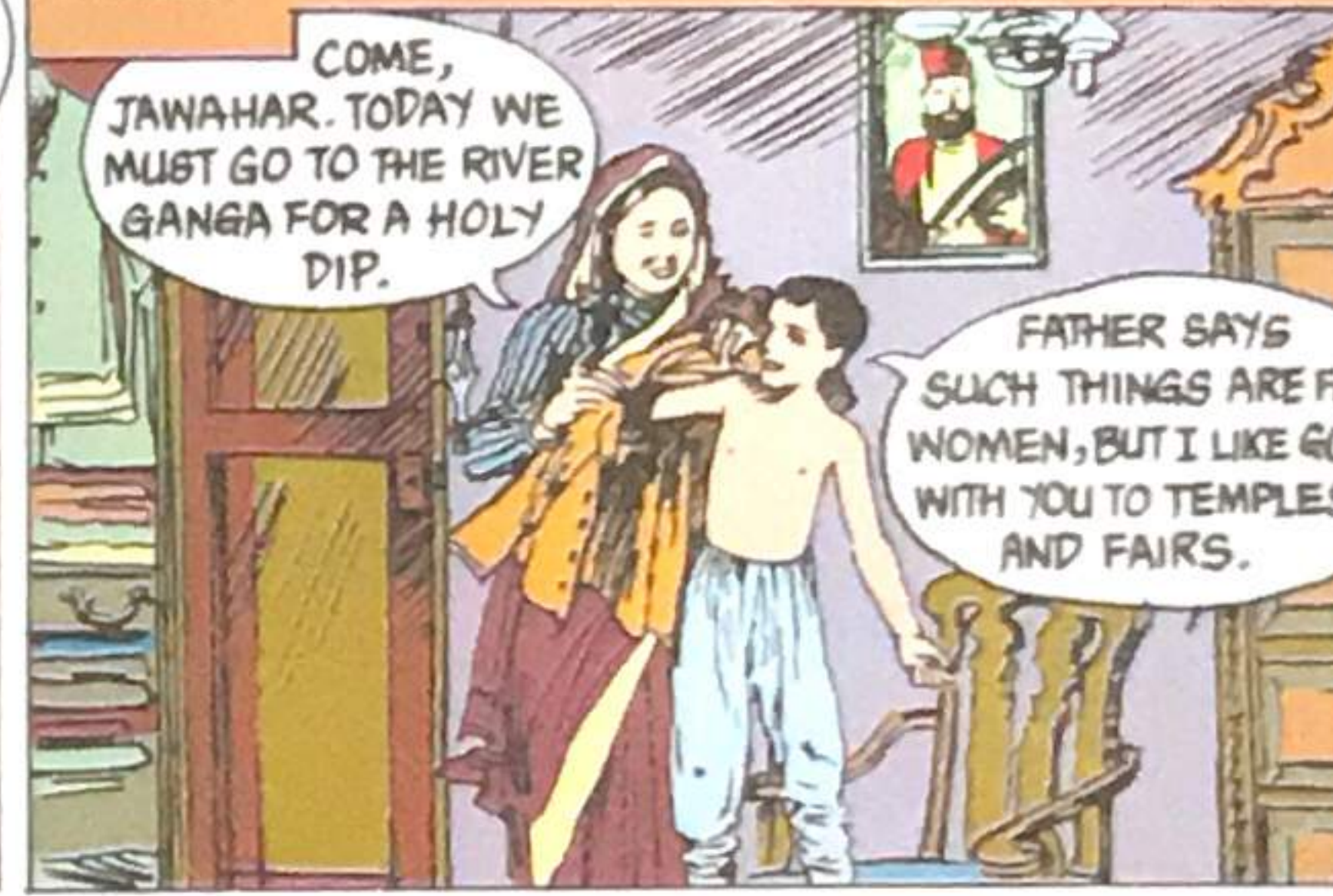
BUT THE CULPRIT WAS SOON CAUGHT AND GIVEN A GOOD THRASHING.



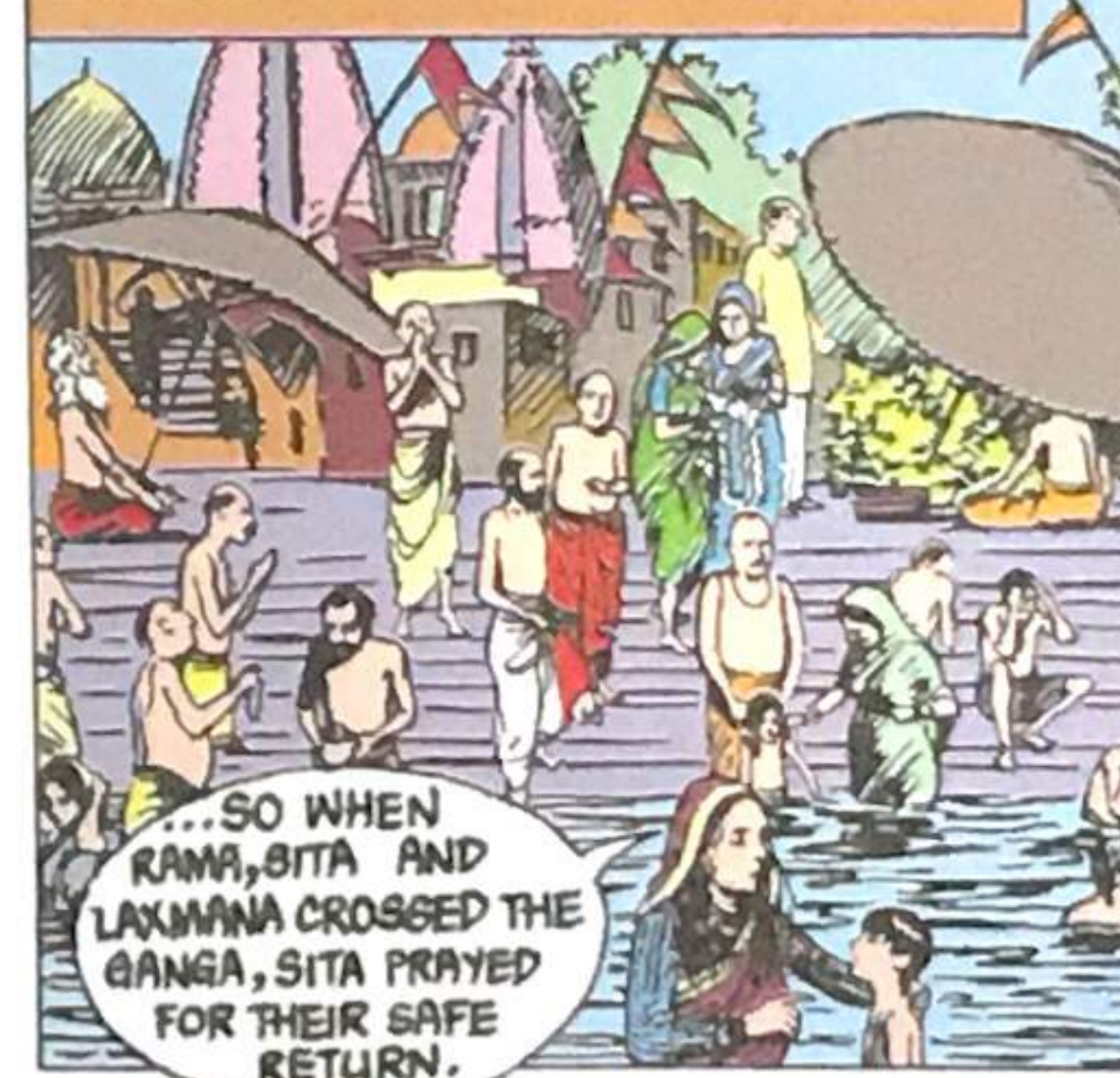
BRUISED AND HURT, JAWAHAR RUSHED TO HIS MOTHER.



TO THE ADMIRATION AND AFFECTION HE HAD FOR HIS FATHER, WAS NOW ADDED AN ELEMENT OF FEAR. HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS MOTHER WAS HOWEVER QUITE TENDER.



FROM HIS MOTHER AND AUNTS, JAWAHAR LEARNT MANY STORIES FROM HINDU MYTHOLOGY.



THE NEHRU HOUSEHOLD CELEBRATED ALL FESTIVALS WITH EQUAL ZEST—BE IT HOLI, DIWALI, ID OR JANMASHTAMI. THE KASHMIRI NEW YEAR, NAVROZ, WAS CELEBRATED IN TRADITIONAL MANNER.



ON THE DAY OF ID, MUNSHI MUBARAK ALI, WHO WAS MORE A FAMILY MEMBER THAN HEAD OF THE HUGE STAFF OF SERVANTS, TOOK YOUNG JAWAHAR TO THE MOSQUE.



JAWAHAR'S BOYHOOD WAS RATHER LONELY. THE HOUSE WAS FILLED WITH VARIOUS AUNTS, UNCLES AND OLDER COUSINS. BUT THERE WAS NO ONE OF HIS AGE TO PLAY WITH.



THE LONELY CHILD SOUGHT REFUGE IN THE COMPANY OF MUBARAK ALI.



MUNSHIJI HAD AN INEXHAUSTIBLE FUND OF STORIES TO DELIGHT YOUNG JAWAHAR.



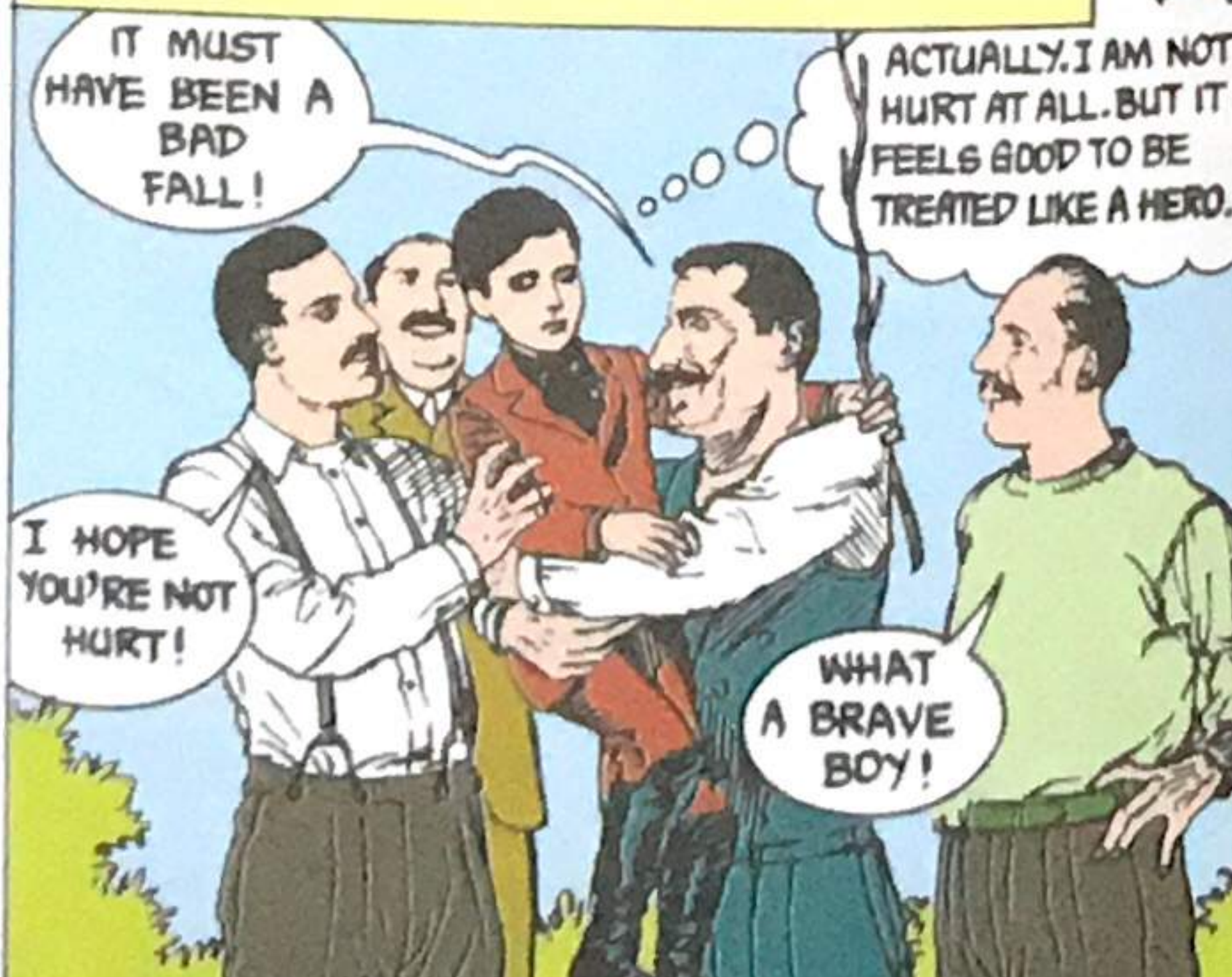
EVERYDAY, YOUNG JAWAHAR WAS TAKEN FOR A PONY RIDE ACCOMPANIED BY A RIDER. ONE EVENING —



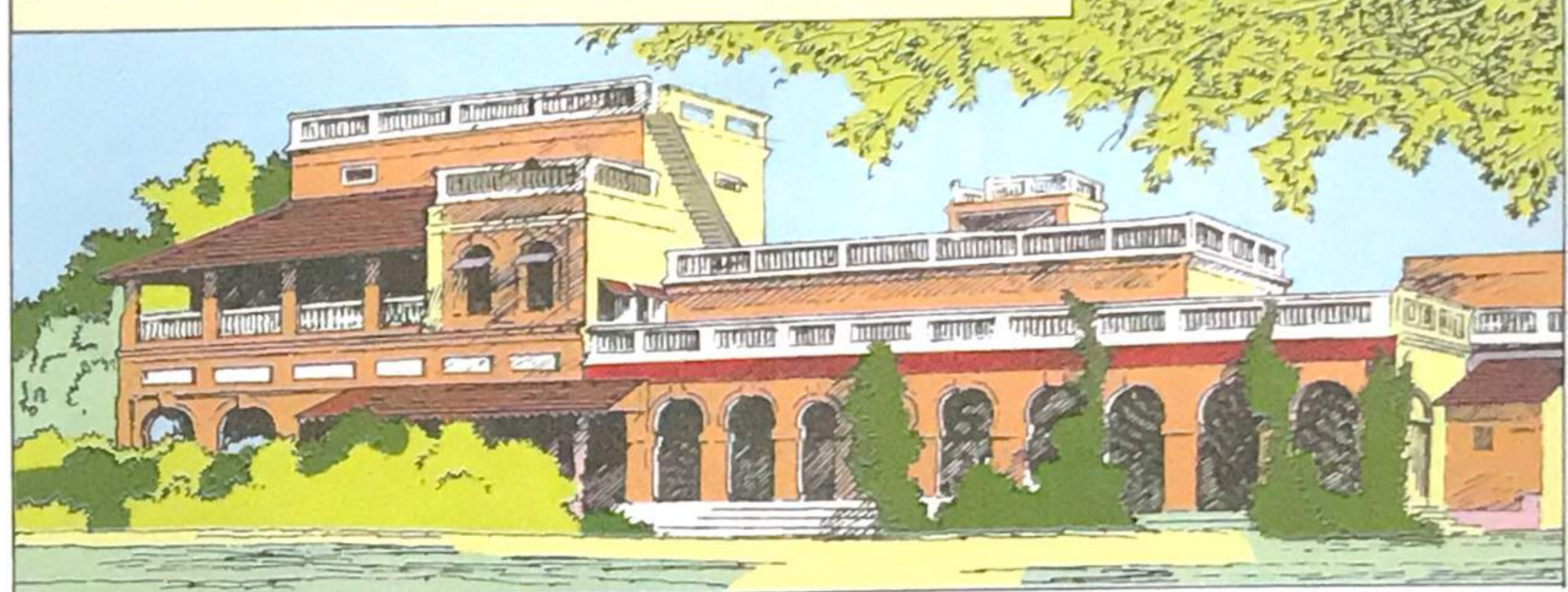
THE SEARCH PARTY HAD HARDLY GONE A LITTLE DISTANCE WHEN—



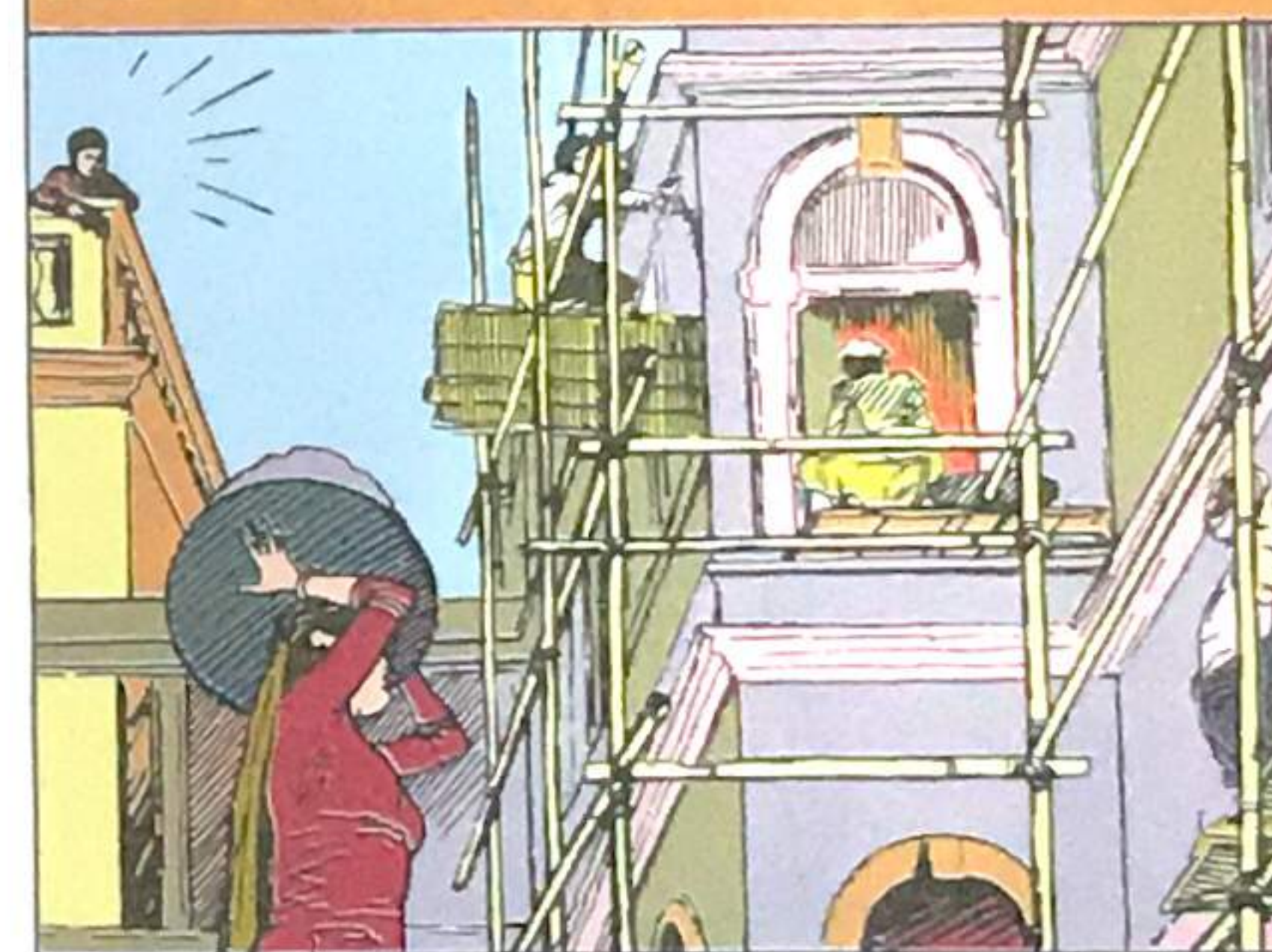
JAWAHAR WAS FUSSED OVER AND PETTED.



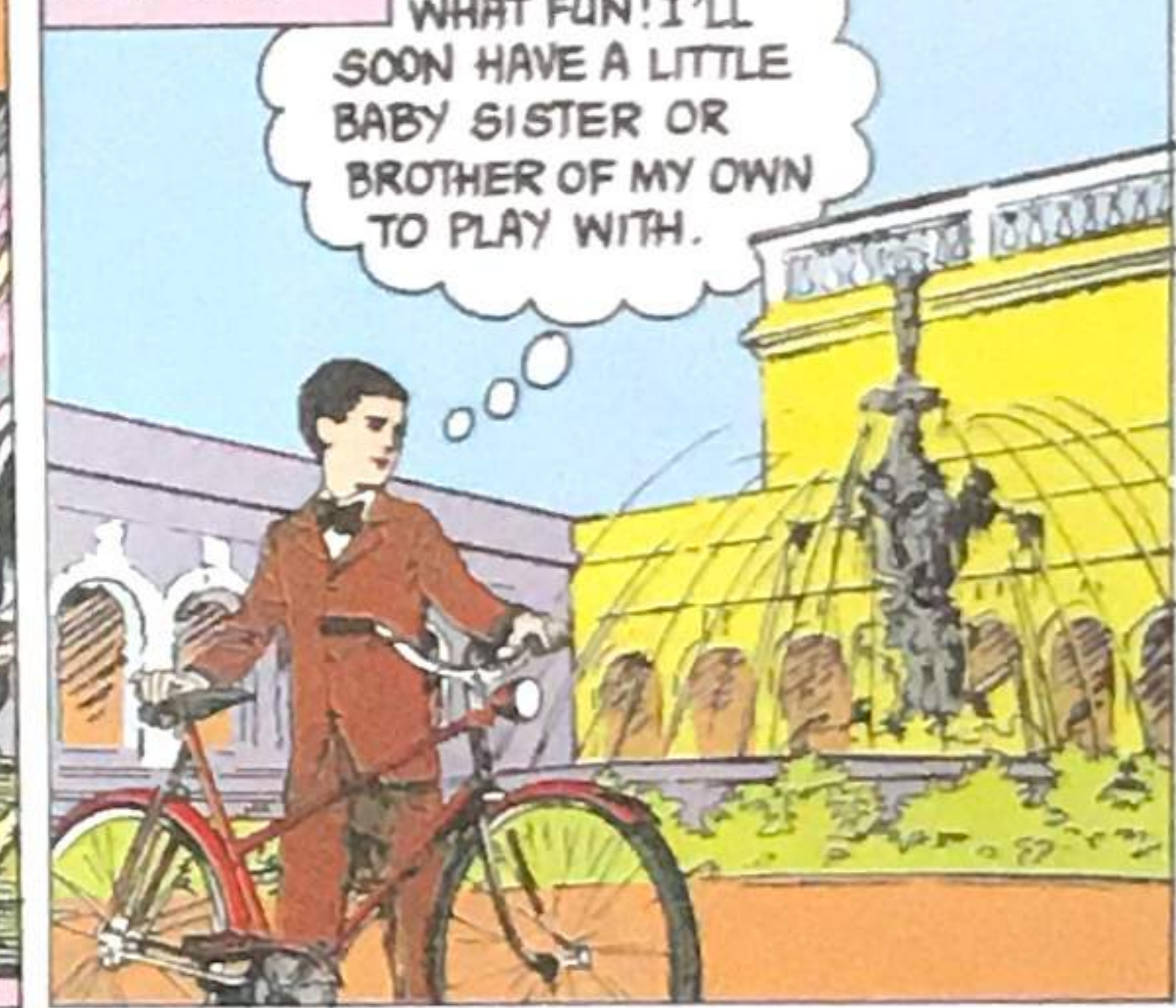
WHEN JAWAHAR WAS ABOUT 10, THE FAMILY MOVED INTO ANAND BHAVAN. IT WAS A HUGE HOUSE WITH A CENTRAL COURTYARD, WONDERFUL GARDENS WITH MASSES OF FLOWERS, FOUNTAINS AS WELL AS A SWIMMING-POOL AND TENNIS-COURTS.



JAWAHAR SPENT HOURS WATCHING THE DIGGING AND BUILDING WORK ORDERED BY MOTILAL TO PROVIDE EXTENSIONS TO THE ALREADY SPACIOUS HOME.



ANOTHER EXCITING EVENT HAPPENED AROUND THAT TIME.

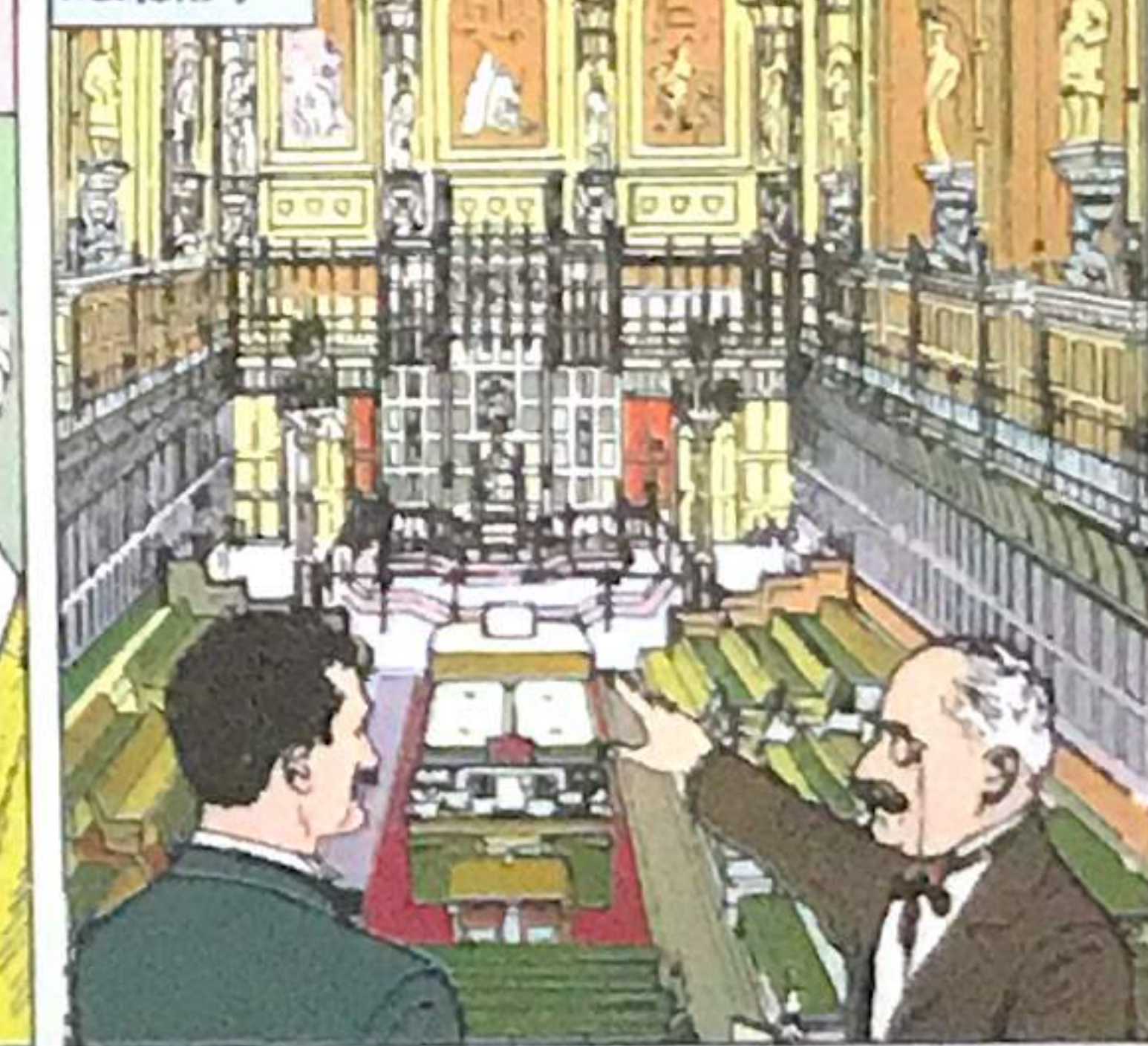


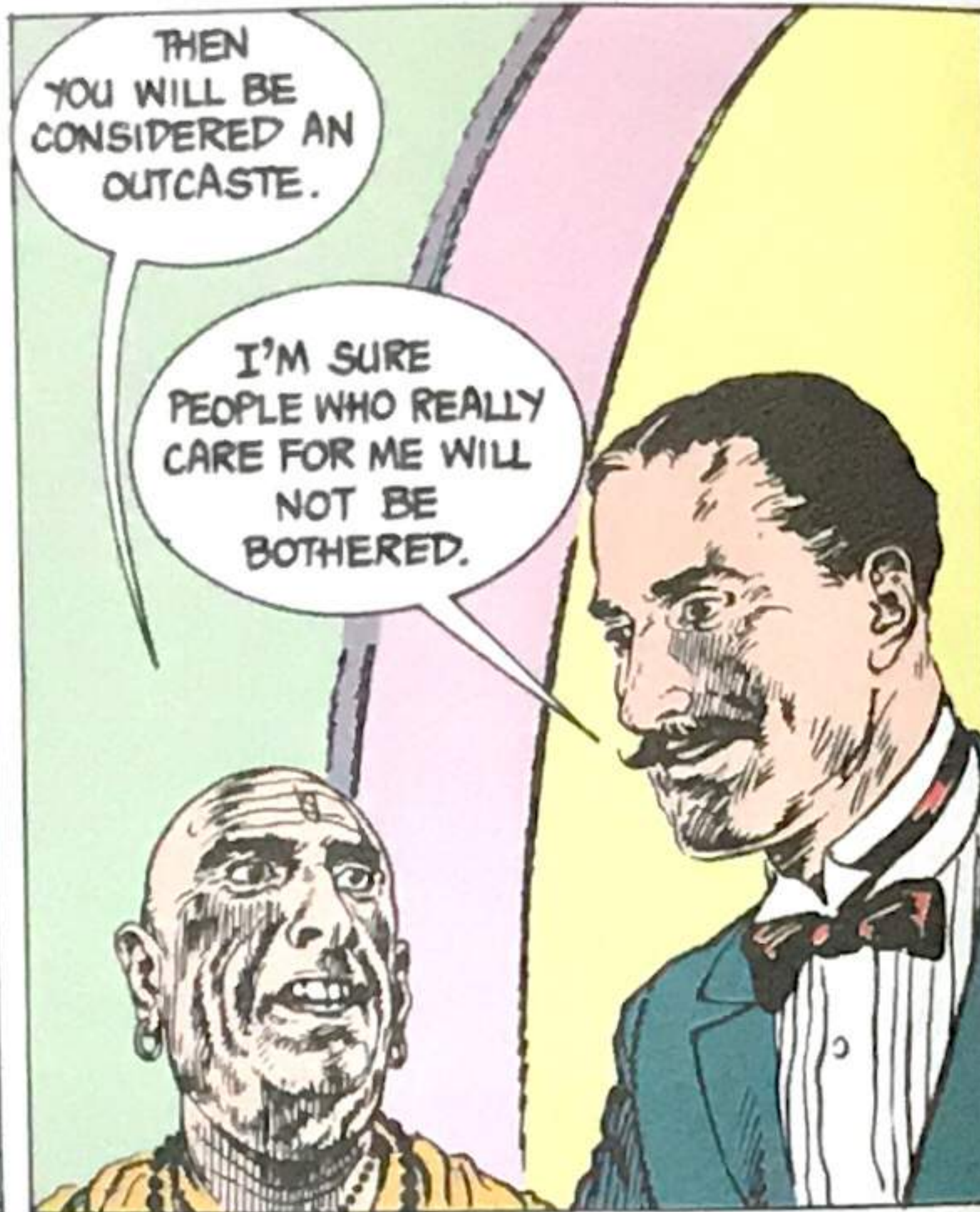
WHEN HIS SISTER, NAMED SARUP KUMARI* WAS BORN ON AUGUST 18, 1900, MOTILAL WAS AWAY ON HIS FIRST TRIP TO EUROPE. A DOCTOR CAME TO JAWAHAR WITH THE NEWS.



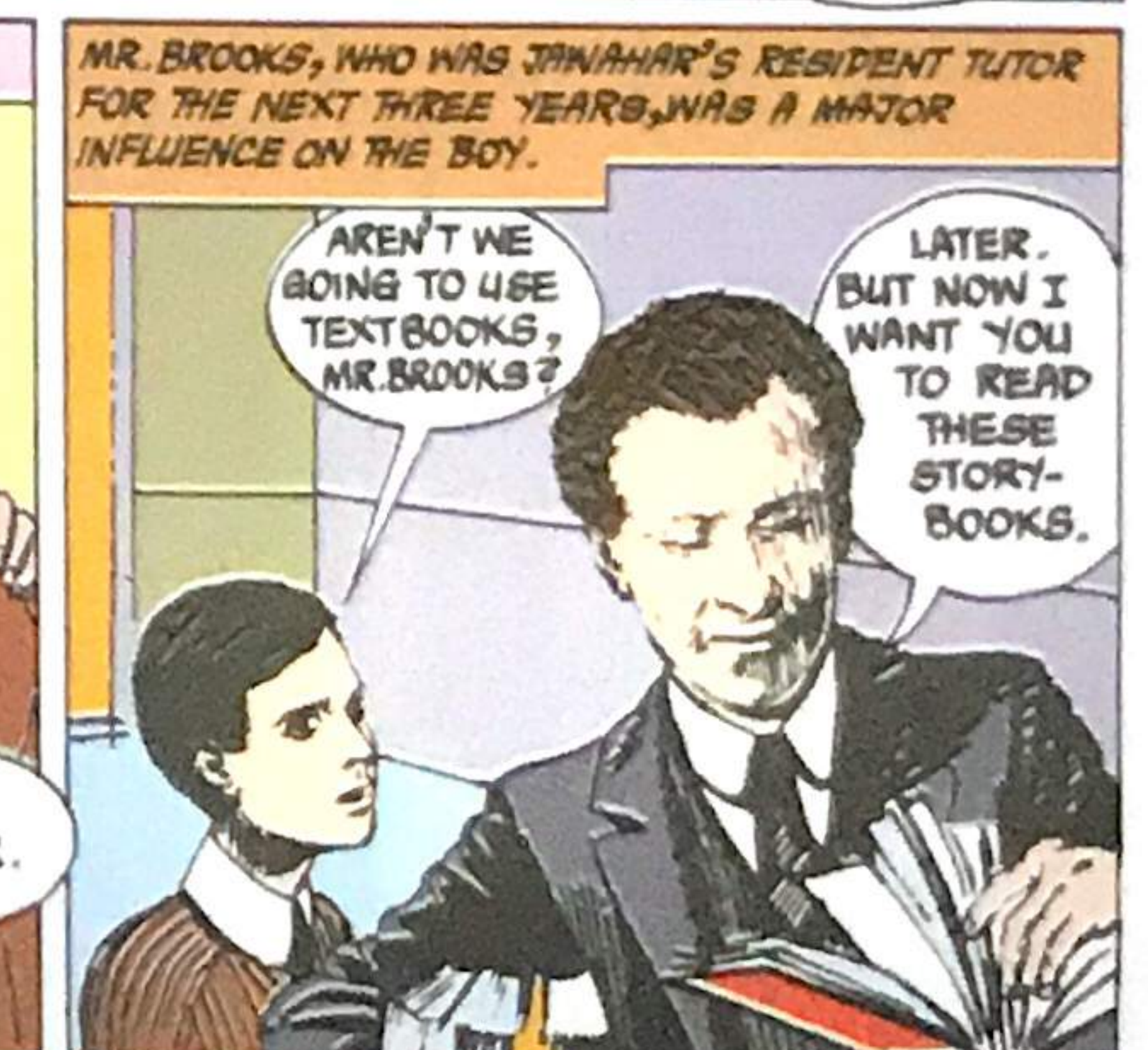
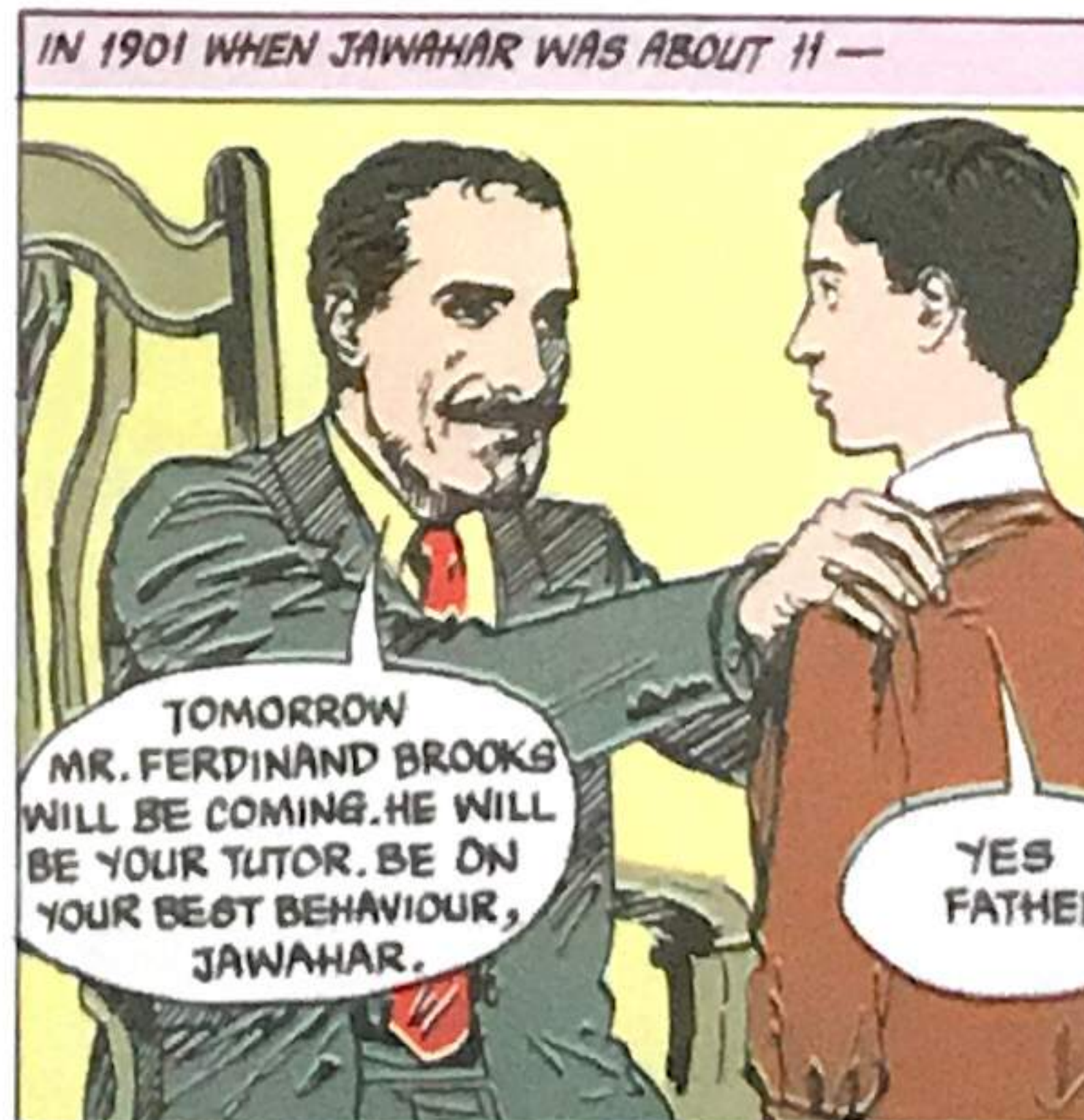
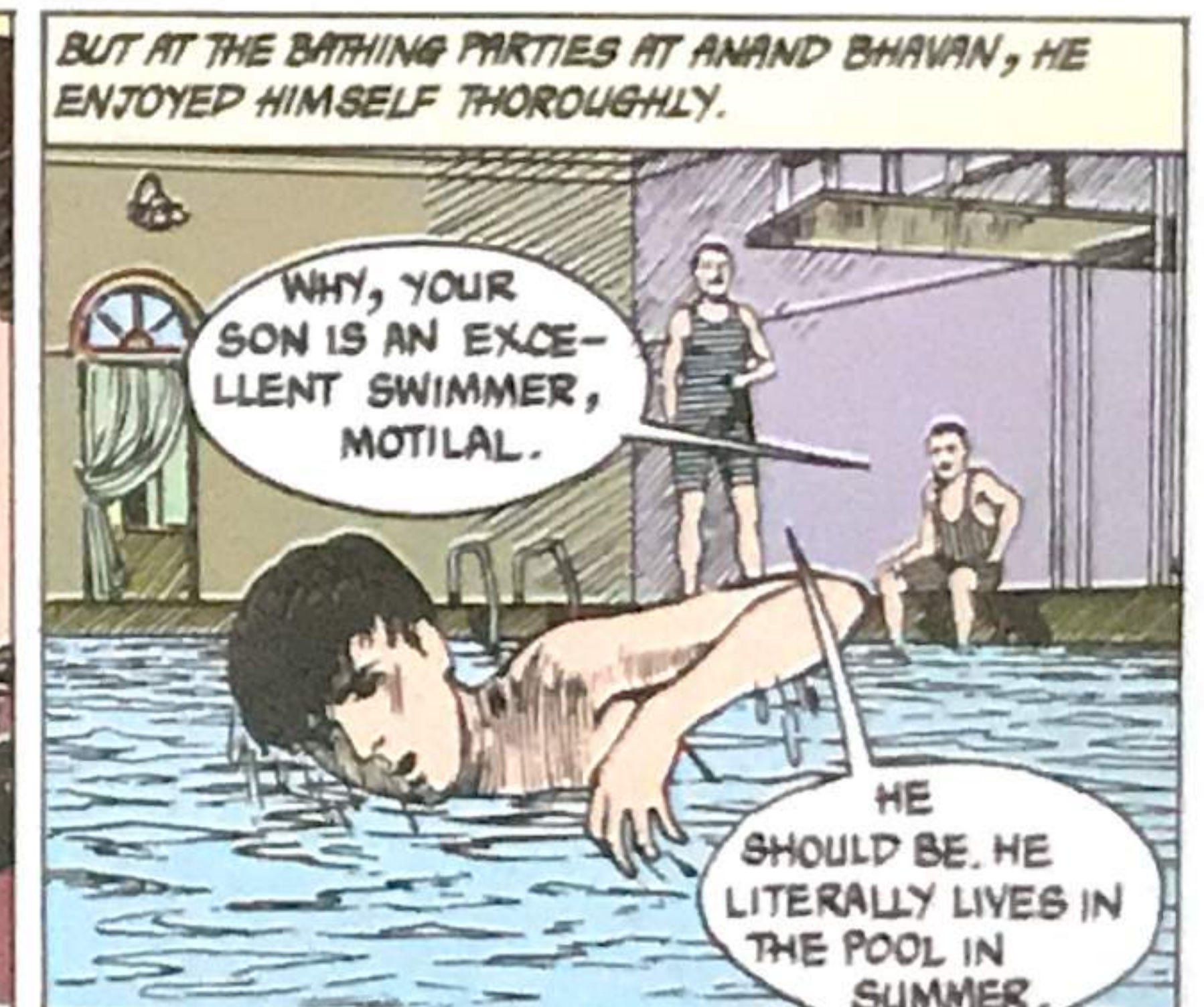
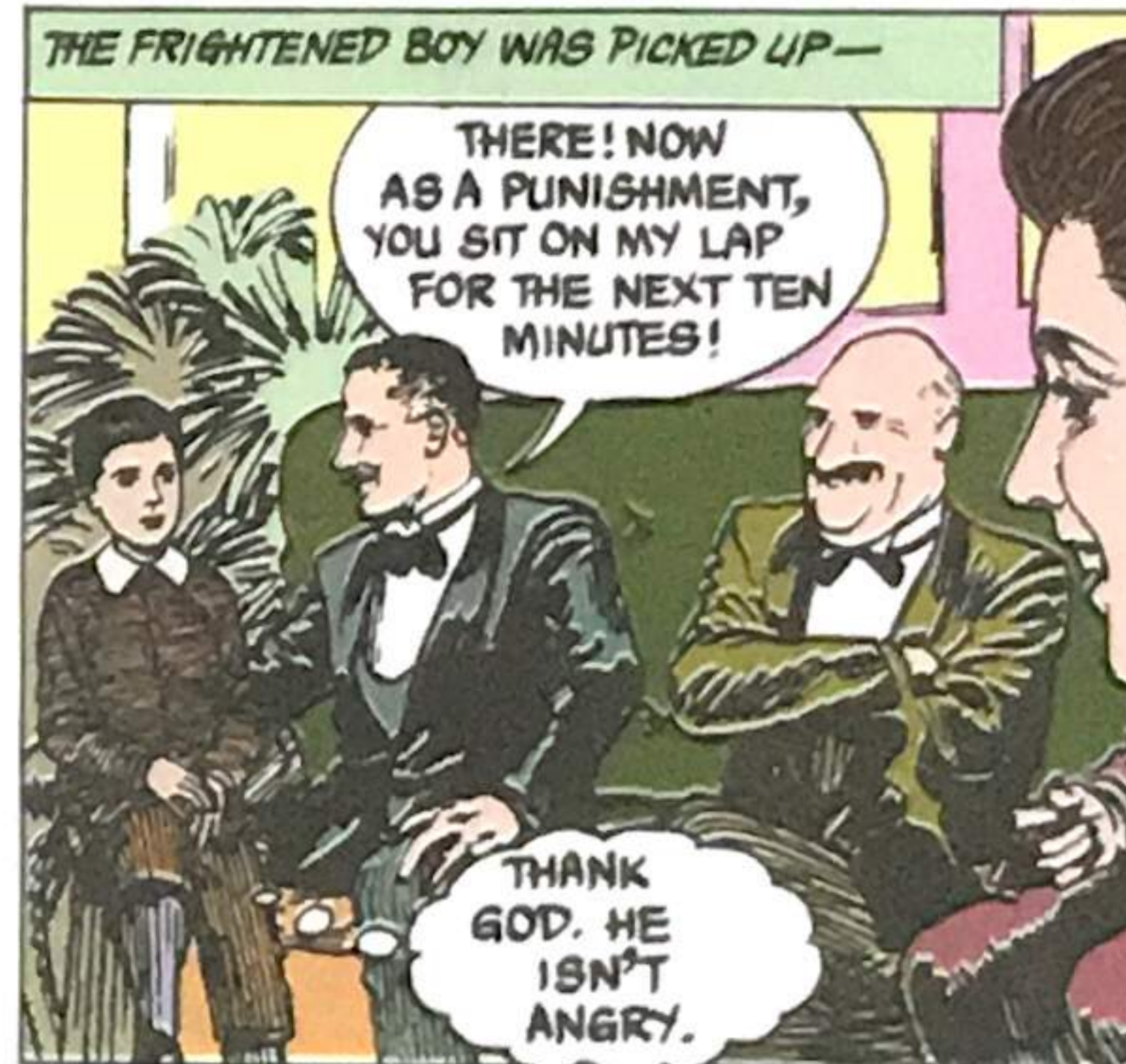
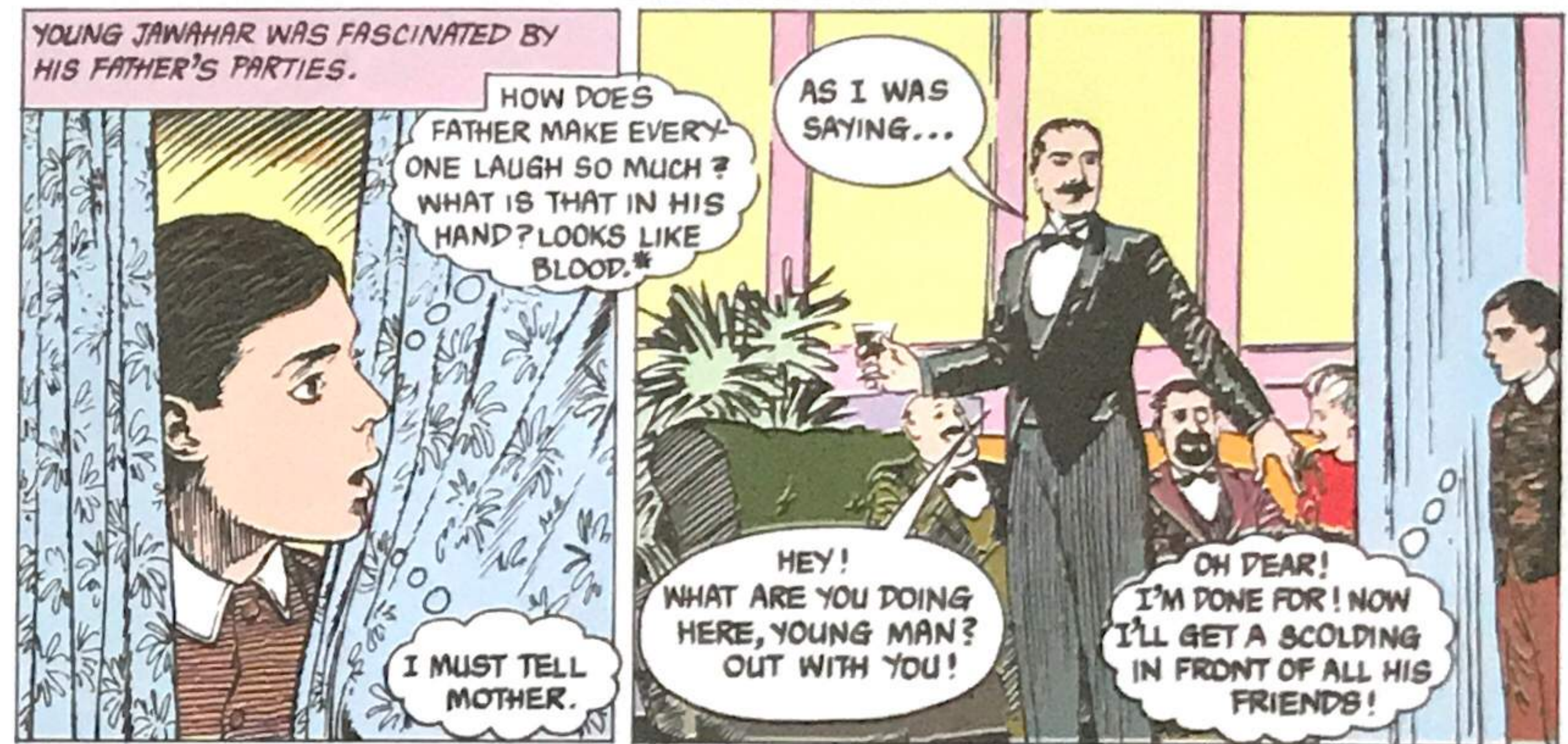
* LATER KNOWN AS VIJAYALAXMI PANDIT.

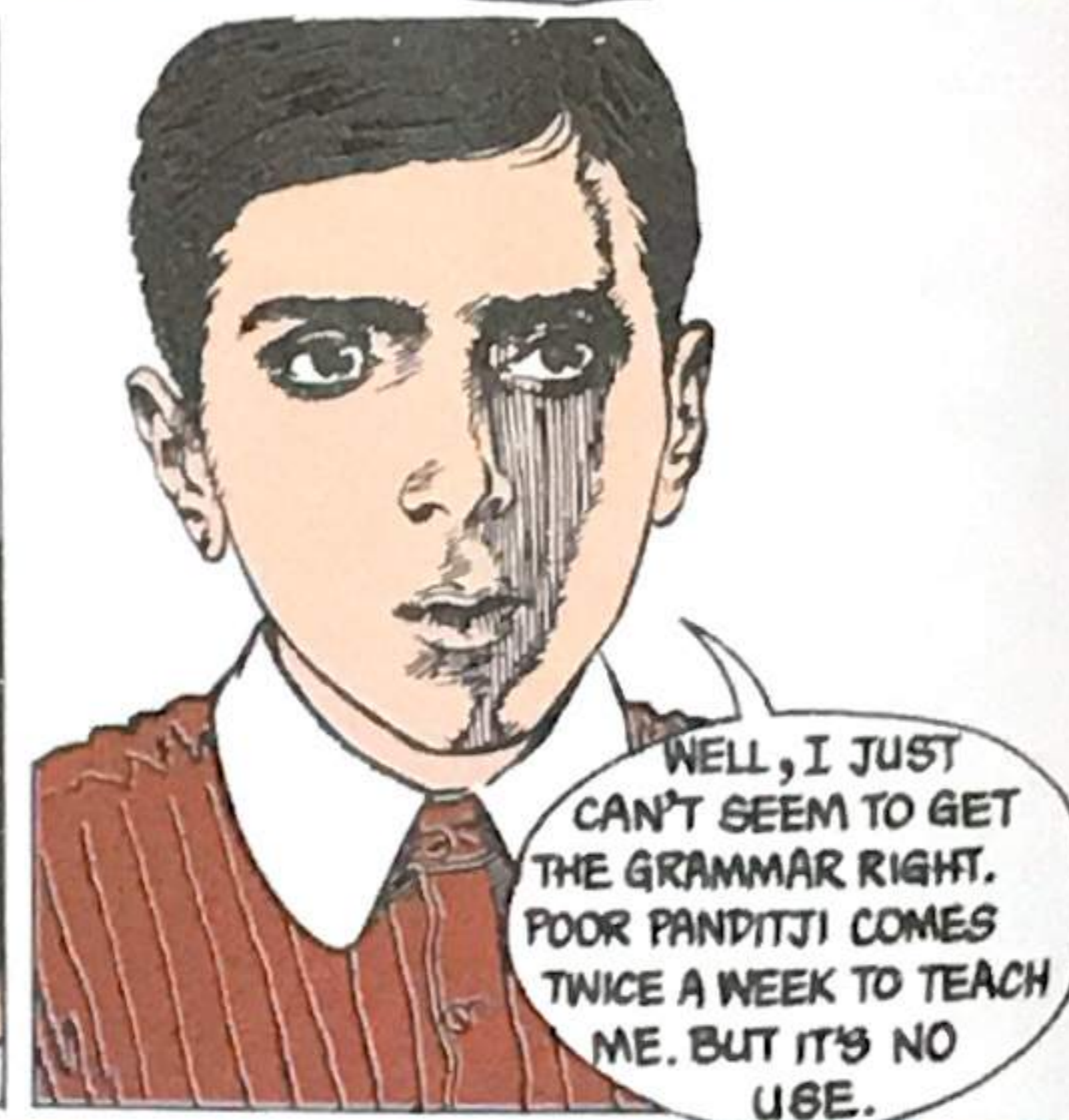
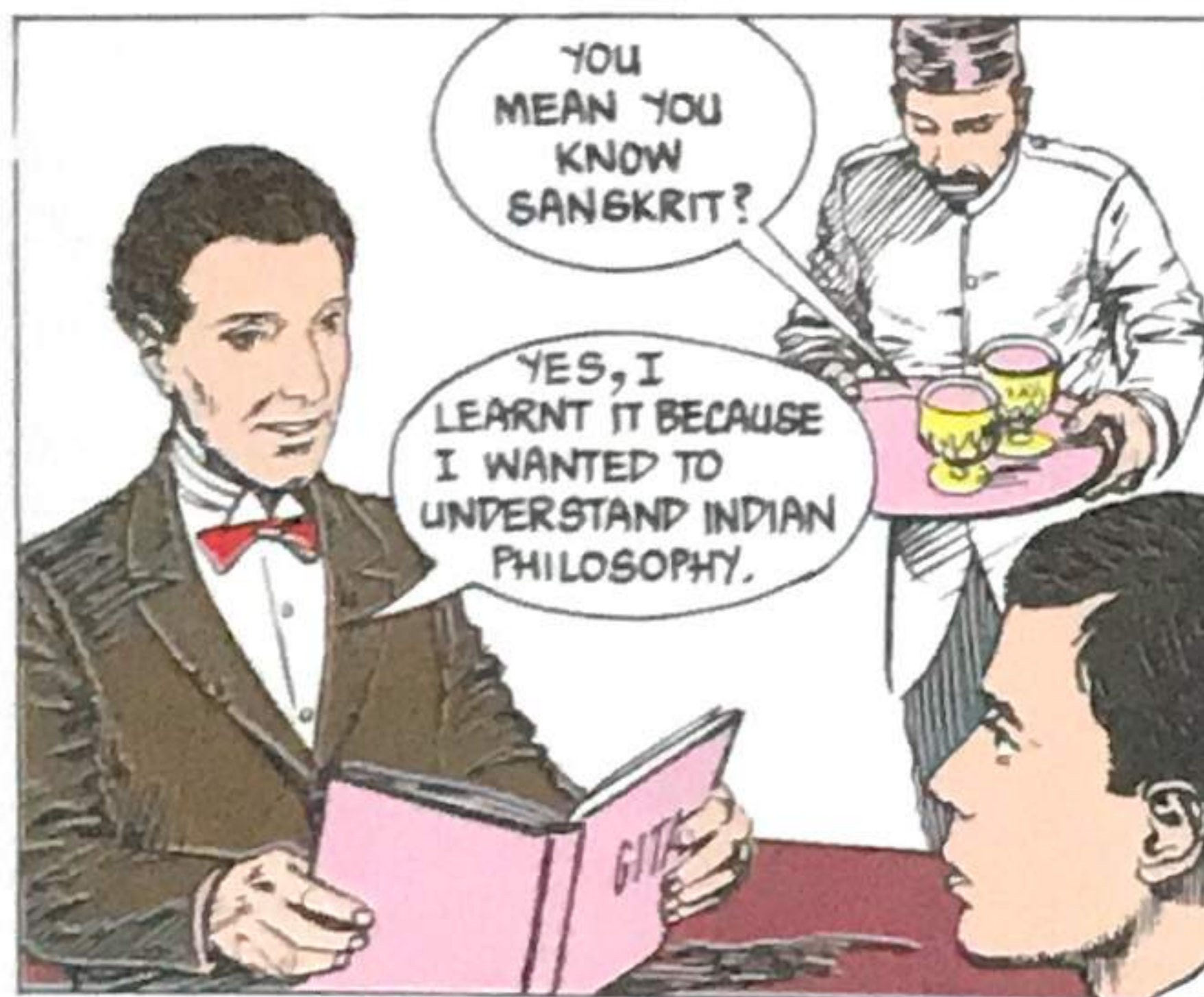
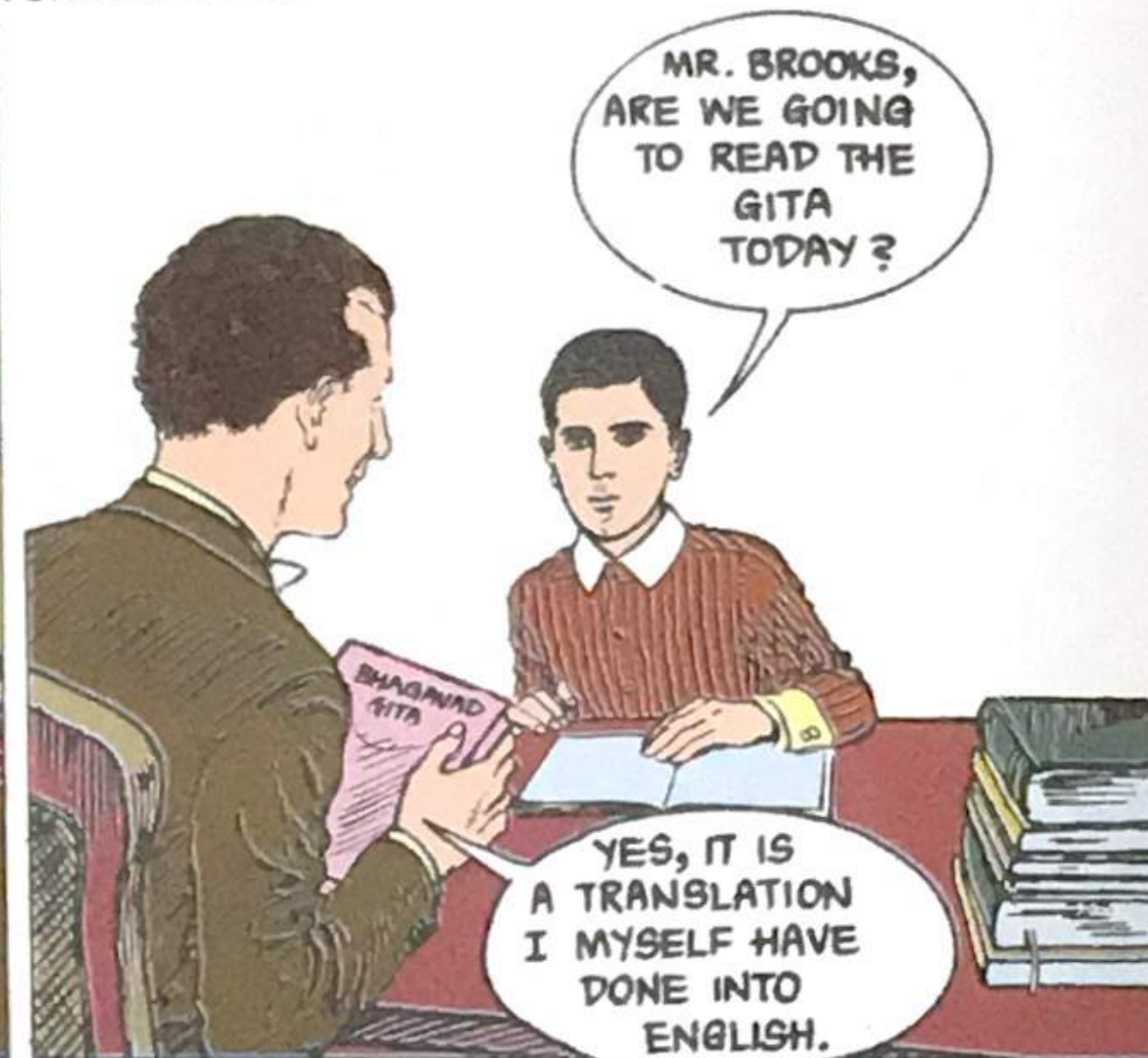
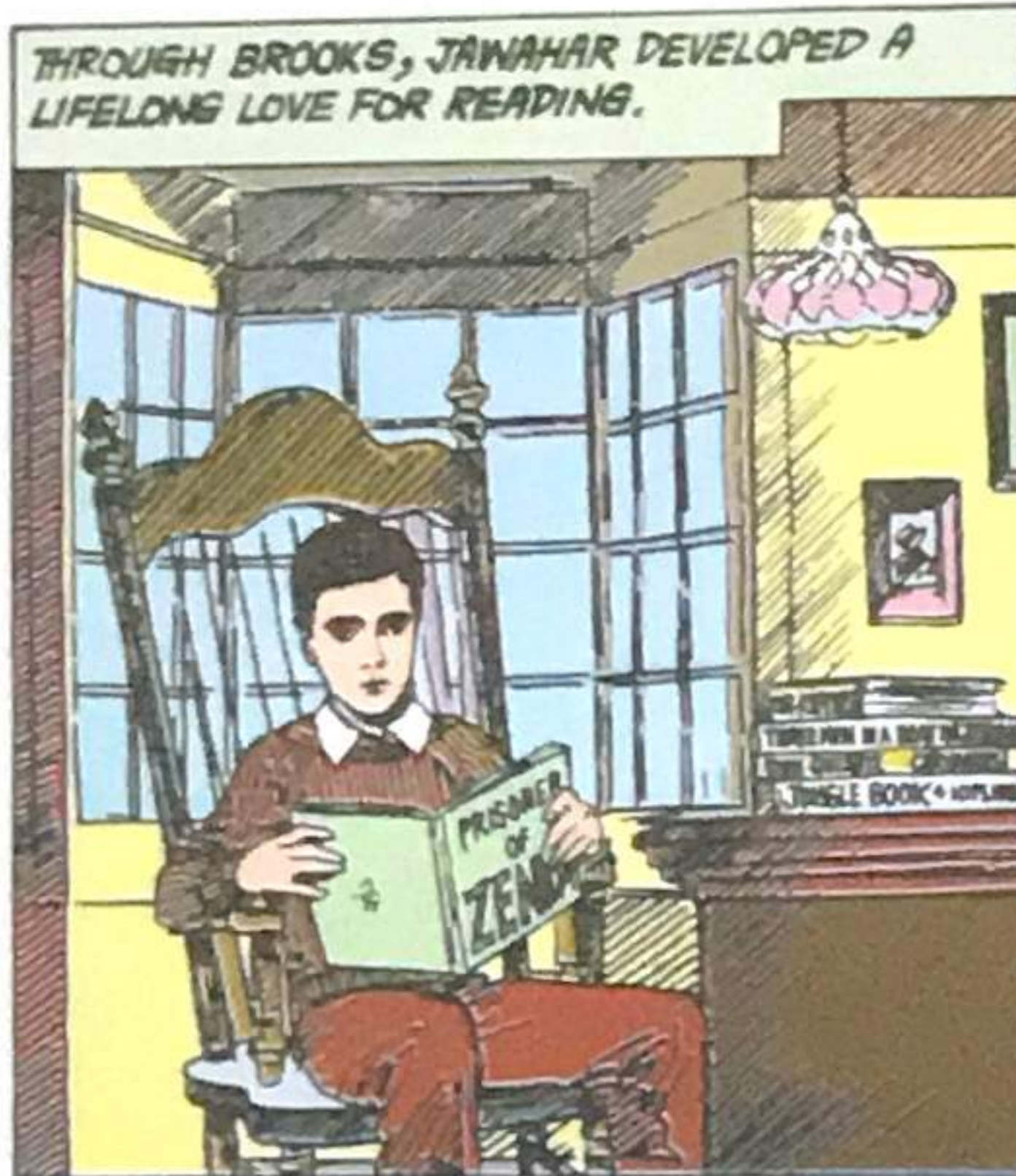
MOTILAL THOROUGHLY ENJOYED HIS FIRST TRIP ABROAD.



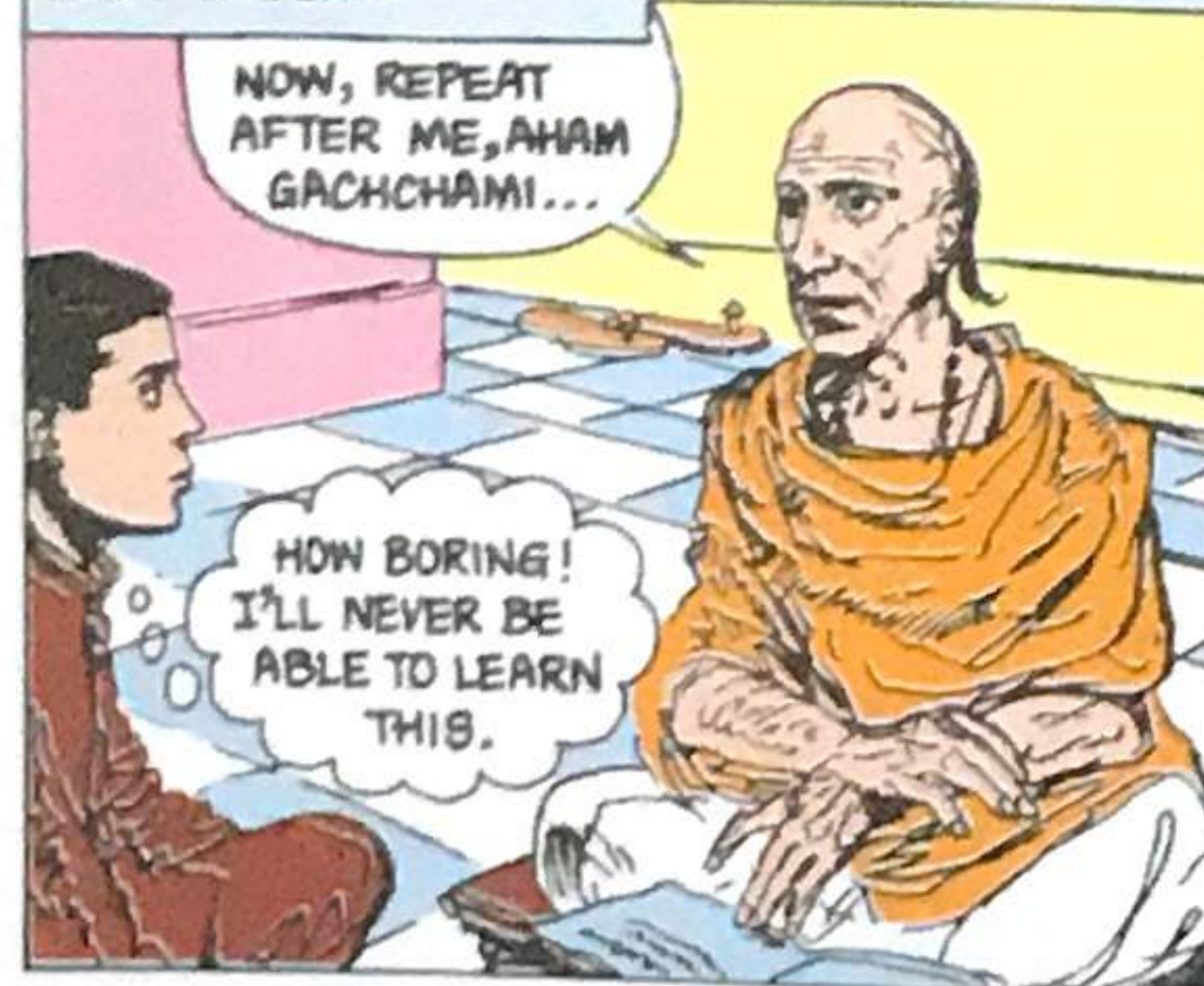


MOTILAL WAS UNFAZED BY SUCH CRITICISM. HE MADE ANOTHER TRIP TO EUROPE AND BOUGHT A CAR, ONE OF THE FIRST IN ALLAHABAD. WITH HIS ENORMOUS INCOME, THE NEHRU FAMILY LIVED IN GREAT STYLE WITH EXTENSIVE WARDROBES, AN EXCELLENT WINE CELLAR, AND AN ARMY OF SERVANTS. TWO CULTURES EXISTED SIDE BY SIDE; THE WESTERNISED SECTION OF THE HOUSE DOMINATED BY MOTILAL, AND THE TRADITIONAL HINDU PART RULED OVER BY THE WOMEN. MOTILAL ENTERTAINED OFTEN LAVISHLY. HIS FRIENDS, EUROPEANS AND INDIAN MAHARAJAS, RUBBED SHOULDERS AT HIS PARTIES.

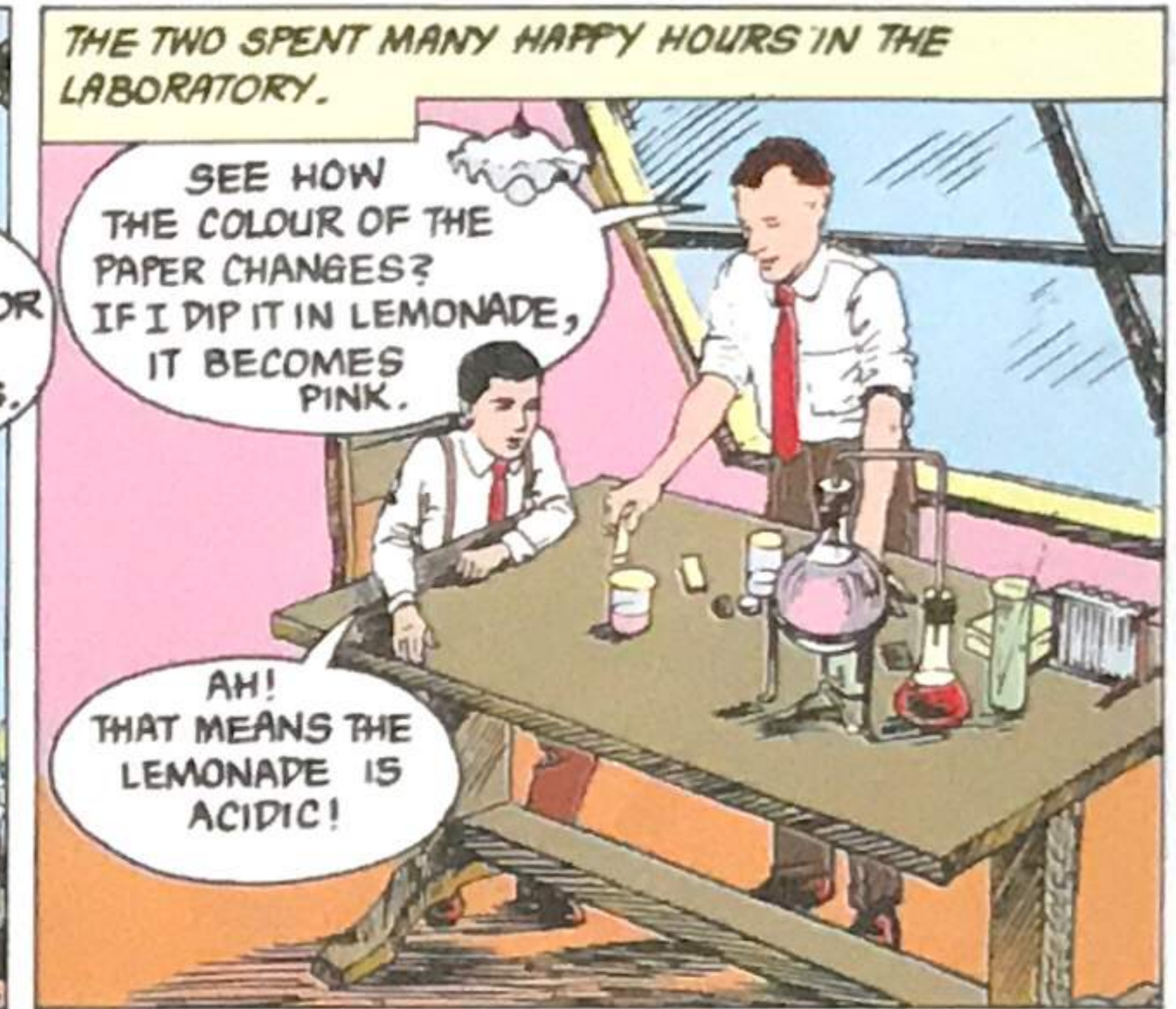
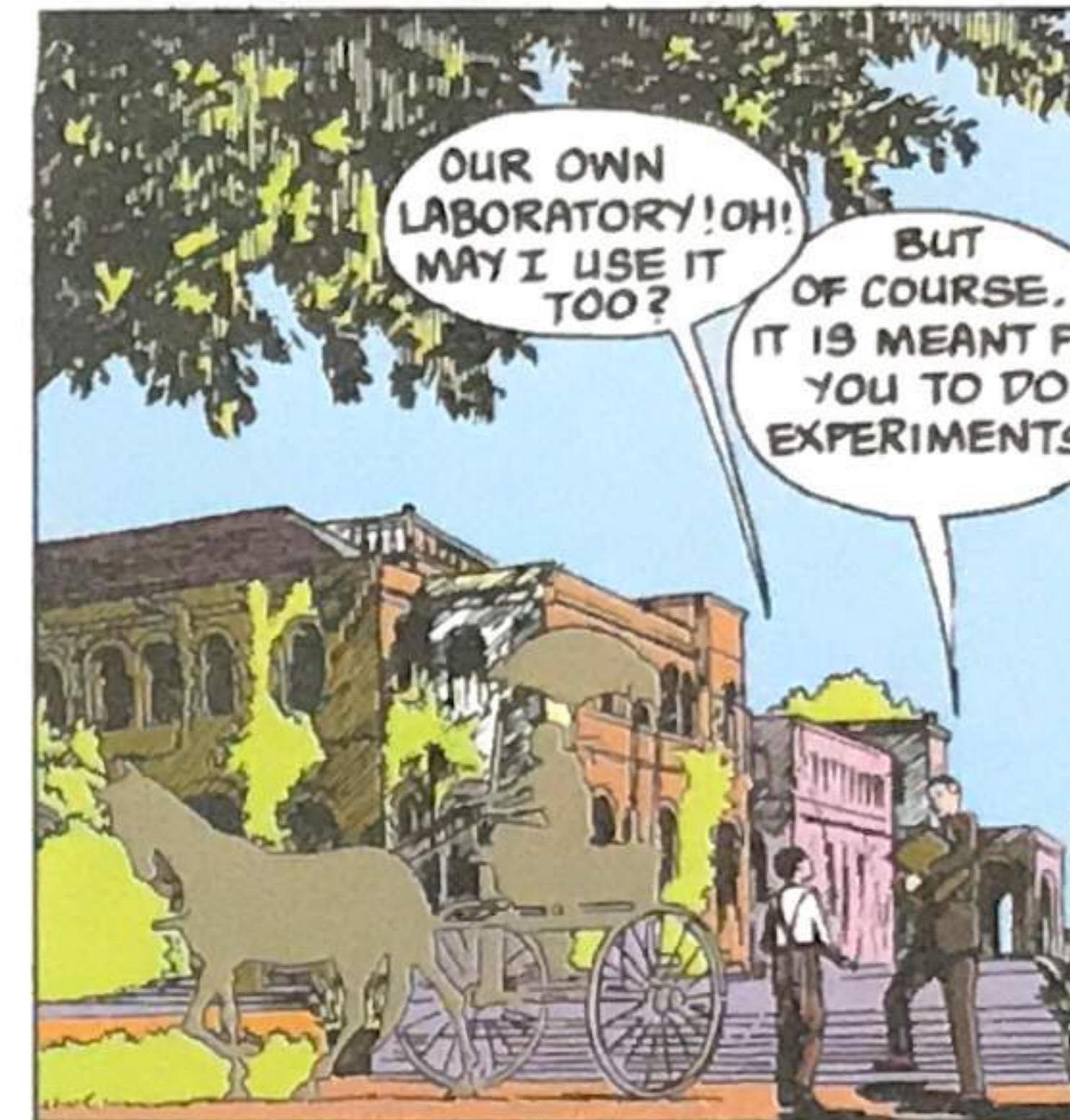
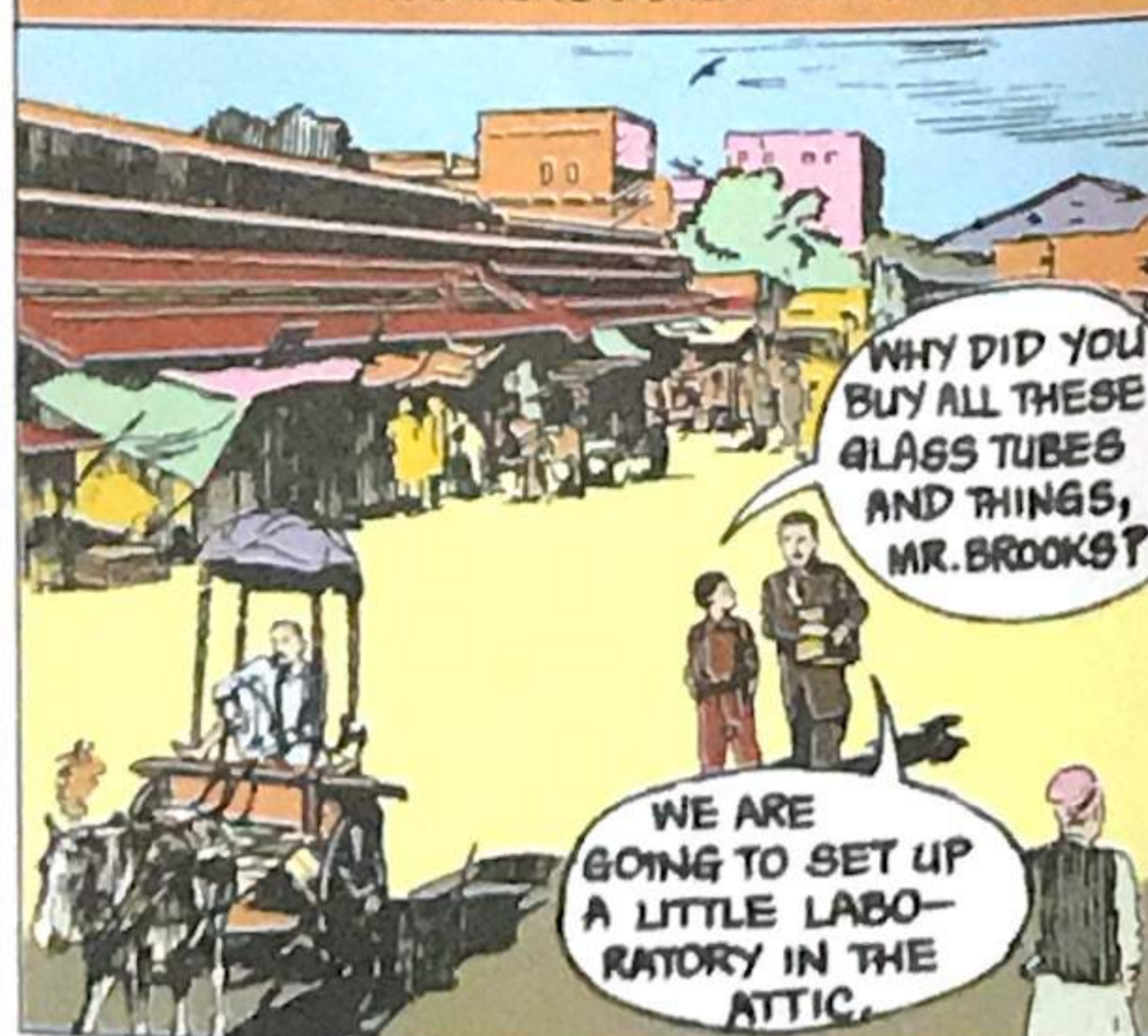




PANDIT GANGANATH JHA WAS A SANSKRIT SCHOLAR WHO WAS APPOINTED TO TEACH JAWAHAR SANSKRIT AND HINDI. BUT HE DID NOT HAVE MUCH SUCCESS WITH HIS YOUNG STUDENT.



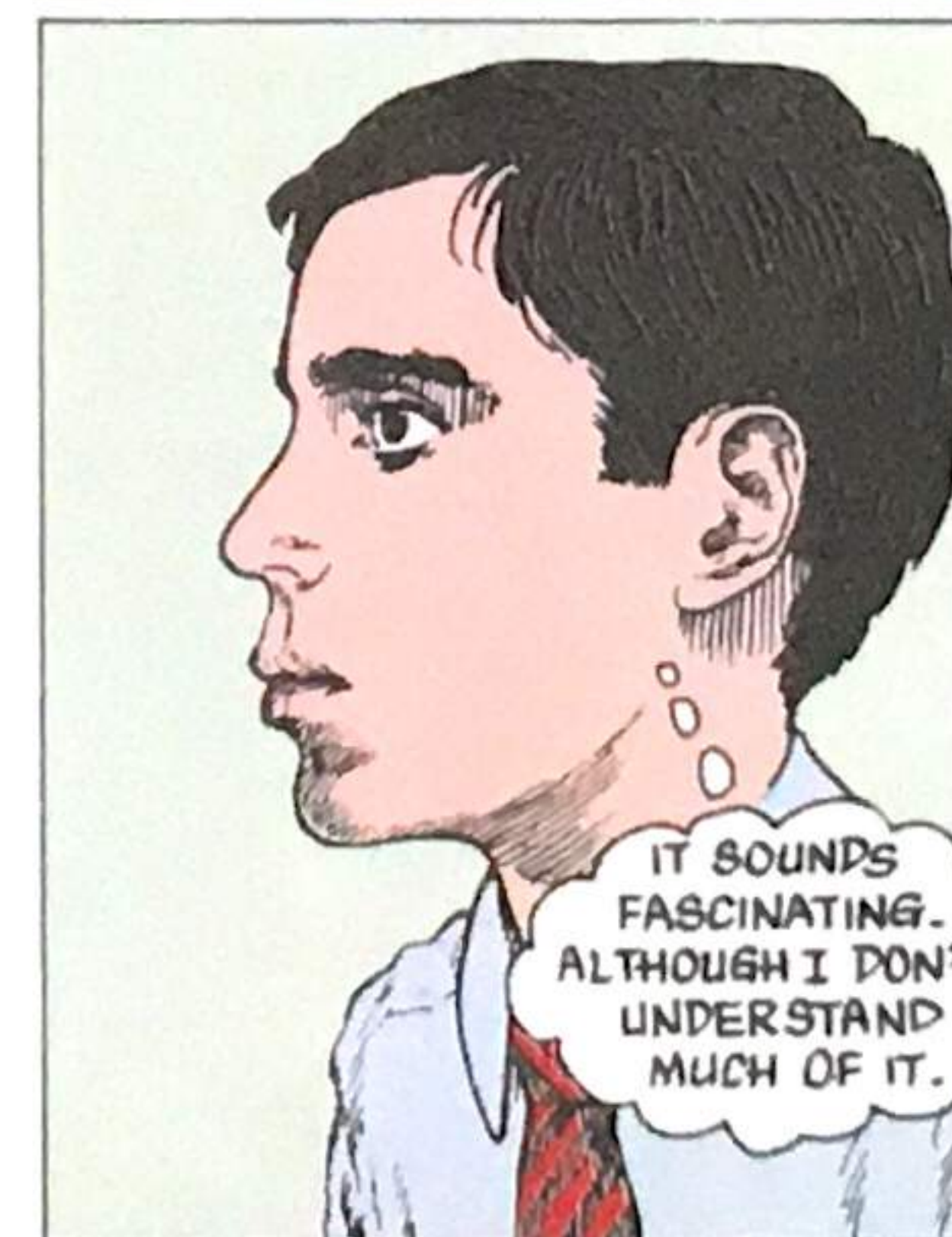
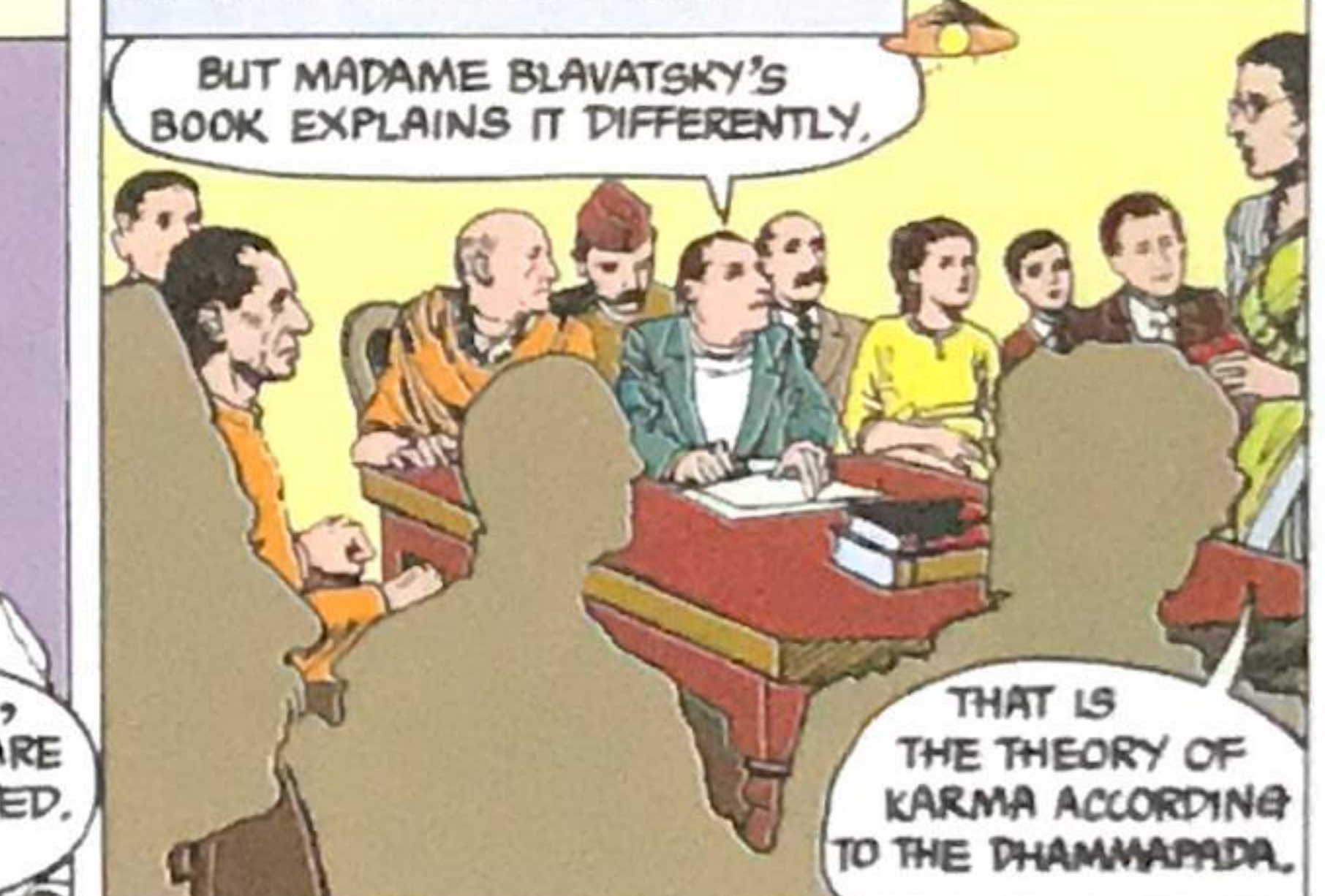
HIS LESSONS WITH BROOKS WERE A TOTAL CONTRAST.



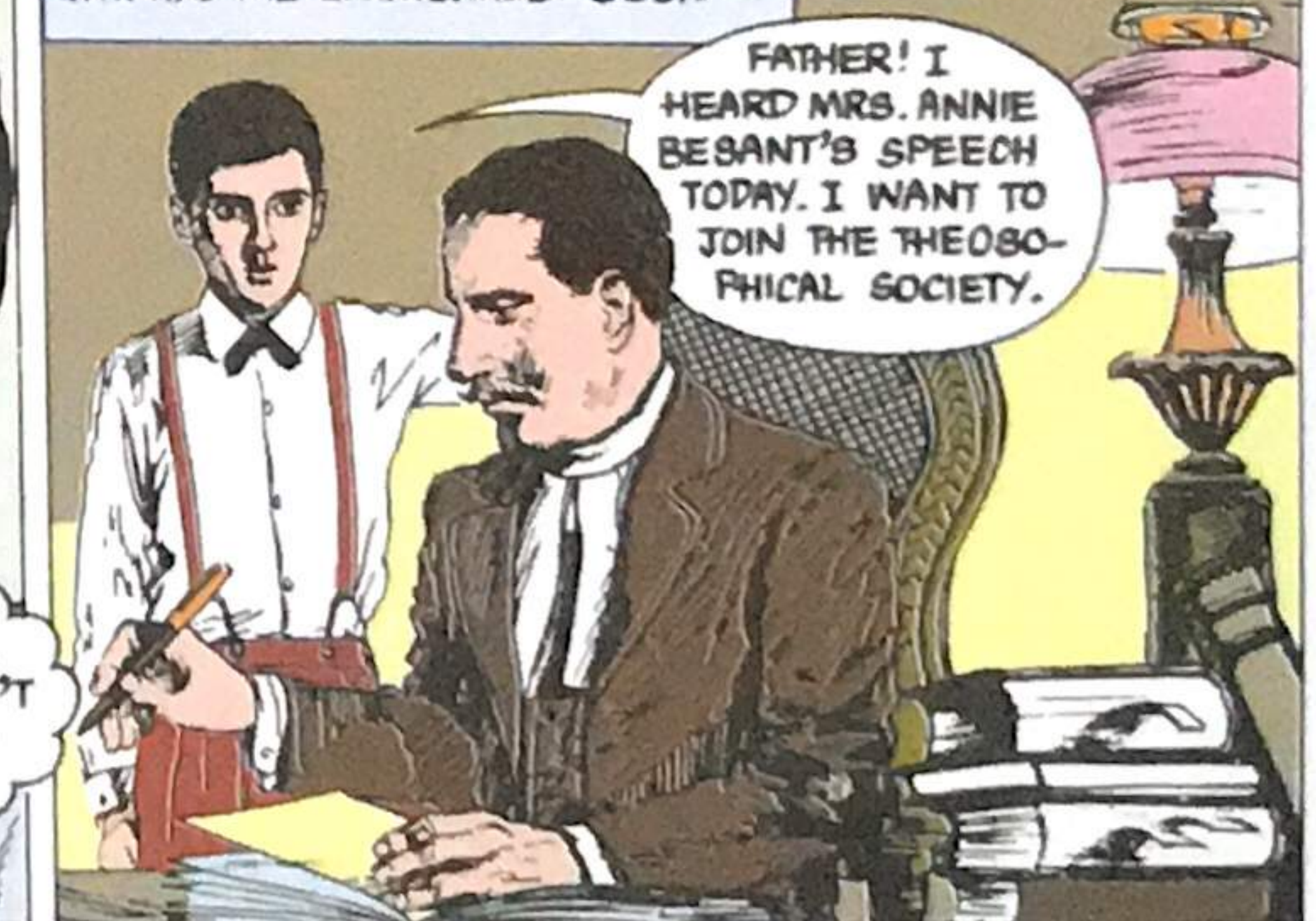
BROOKS WAS A THEOSOPHIST WHO HAD BEEN INTRODUCED TO THE NEHRUS BY MRS. ANNIE BESANT.



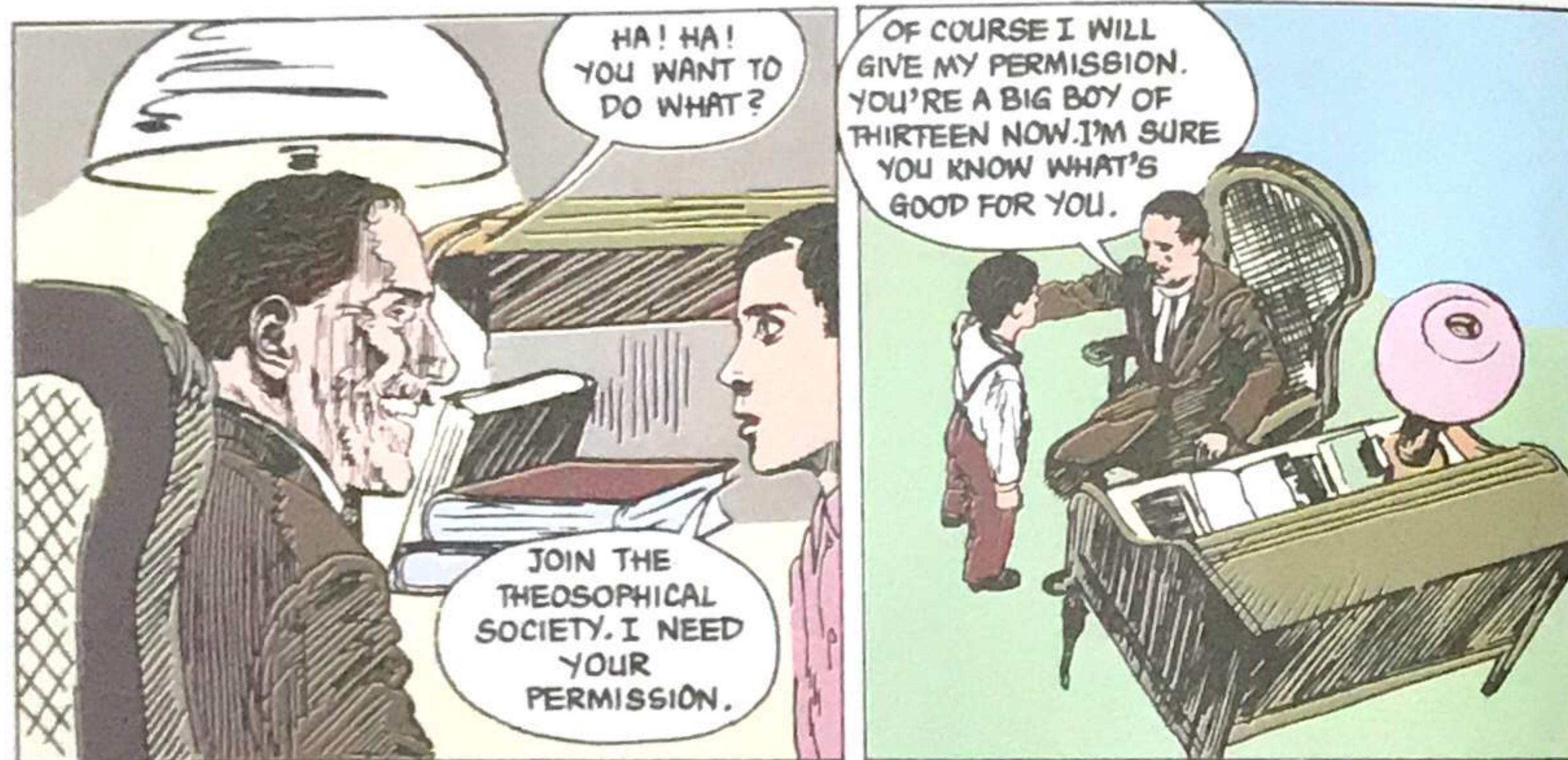
JAWAHAR BEGAN TO ATTEND MEETINGS OF THE THEOSOPHISTS REGULARLY.



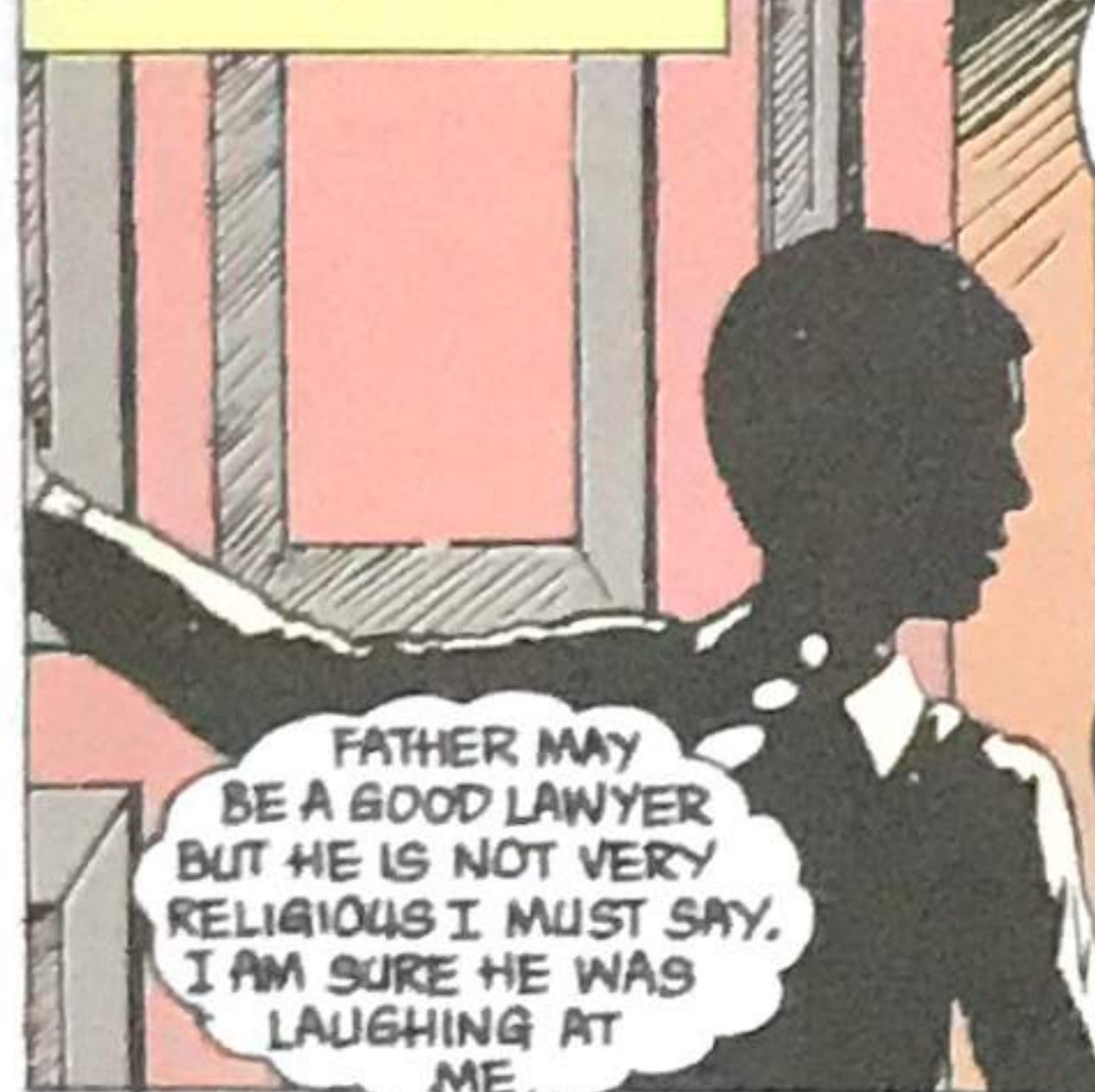
ON BROOKS' INSISTENCE, JAWAHAR ALSO READ THE BHAGAVAD-GITA AND THE UPANISHADS. SOON —



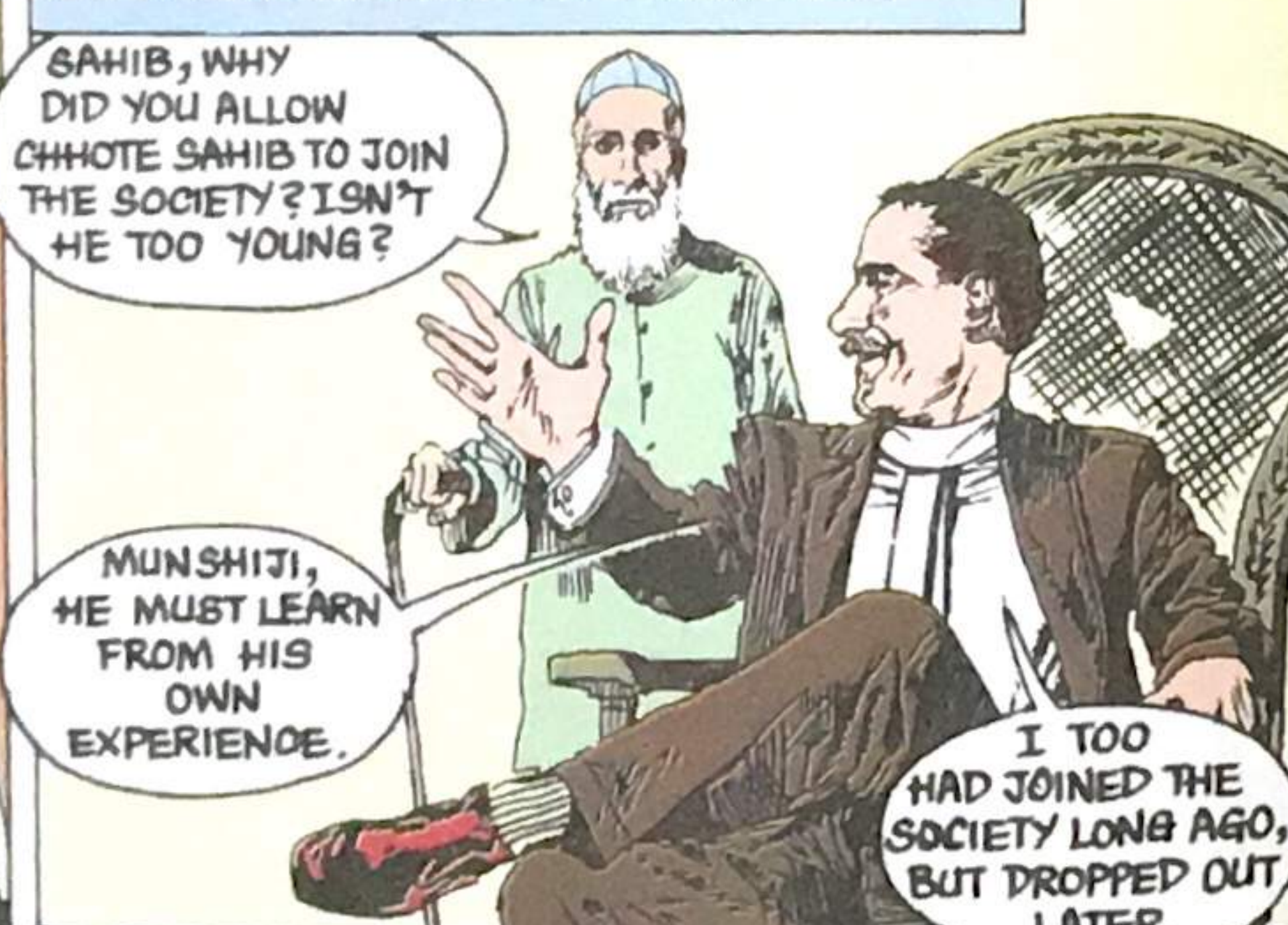
* FOLLOWER OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL MOVEMENT LAUNCHED BY ANNIE BESANT.



JAWAHAR WAS RELIEVED TO GET PERMISSION FROM HIS FATHER. BUT AS HE LEFT THE ROOM.



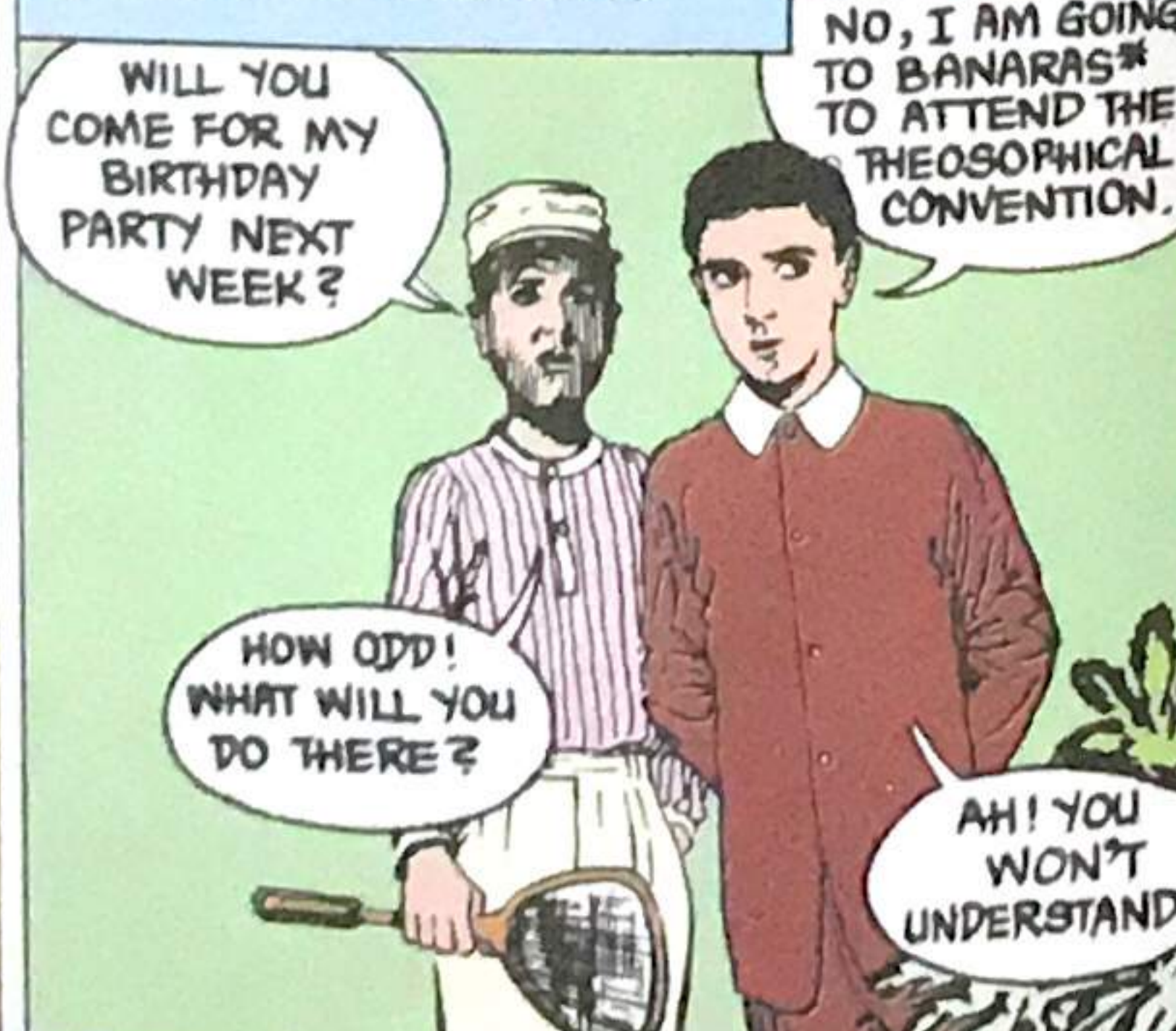
BUT MOTILAL HAD REASONS TO BE AMUSED.



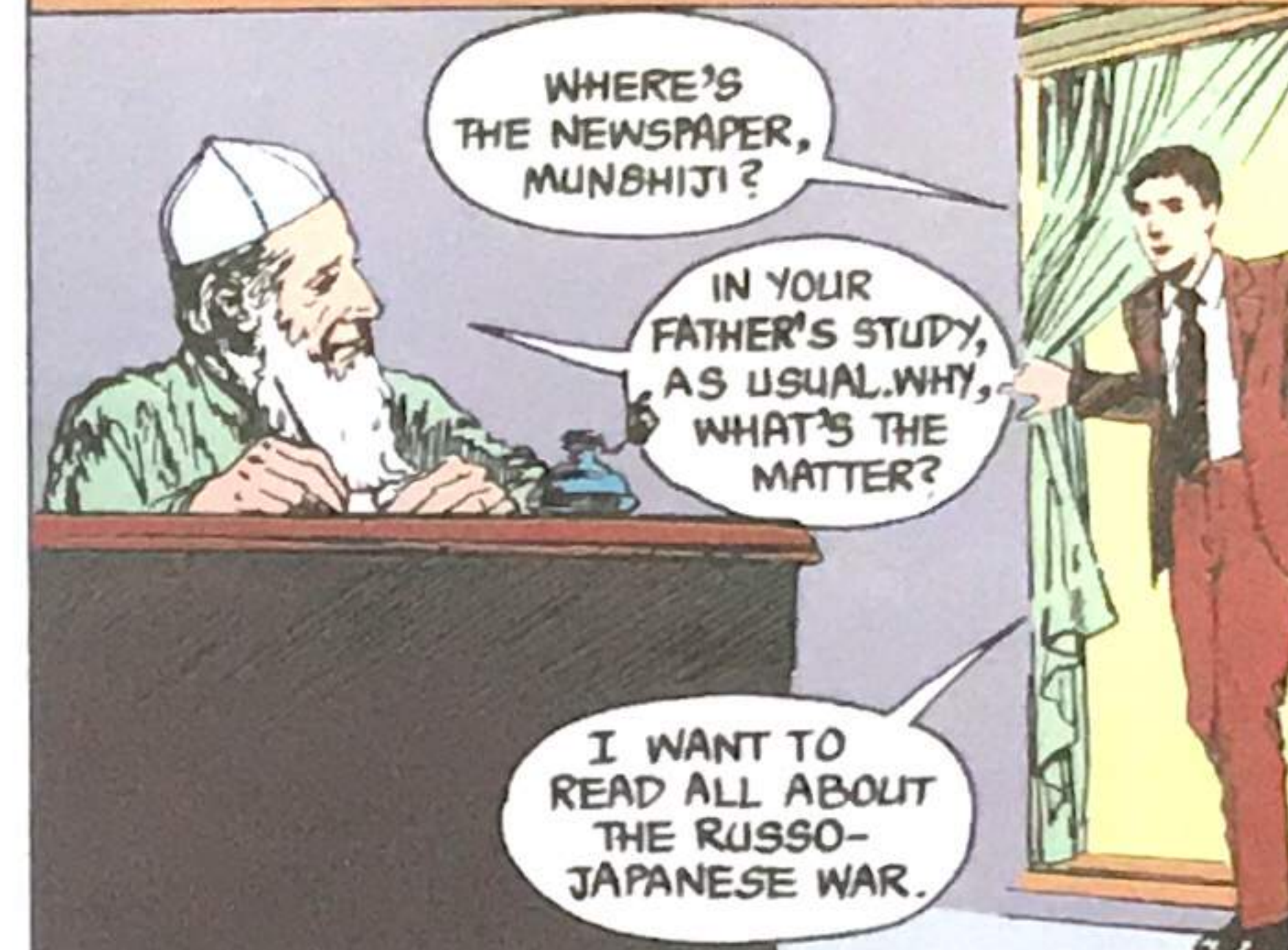
SO, AT THIRTEEN, JAWAHAR WAS CEREMONIOUSLY INITIATED INTO THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY BY DR. ANNIE BESANT HERSELF.



FOR A FEW MONTHS YOUNG JAWAHAR WAS ABSORBED IN THEOSOPHY.



JAWAHAR'S INTEREST IN THEOSOPHY ENDED ABRUPTLY WHEN BROOKS MET WITH A TRAGIC END. MEANWHILE, HIS MIND WAS STIRRED BY ANOTHER EVENT.



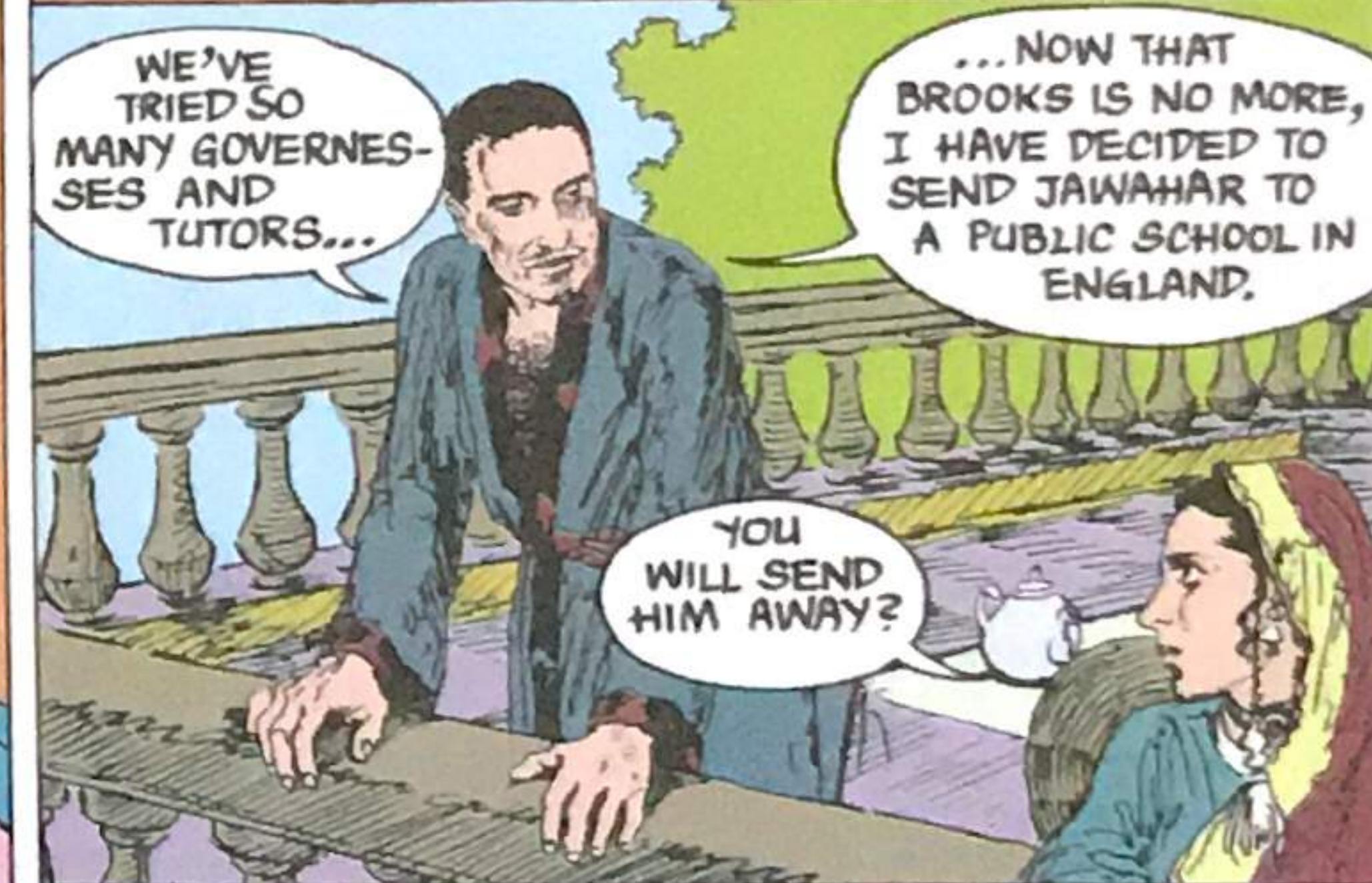
HE AVIDLY READ BOOKS ABOUT JAPAN...



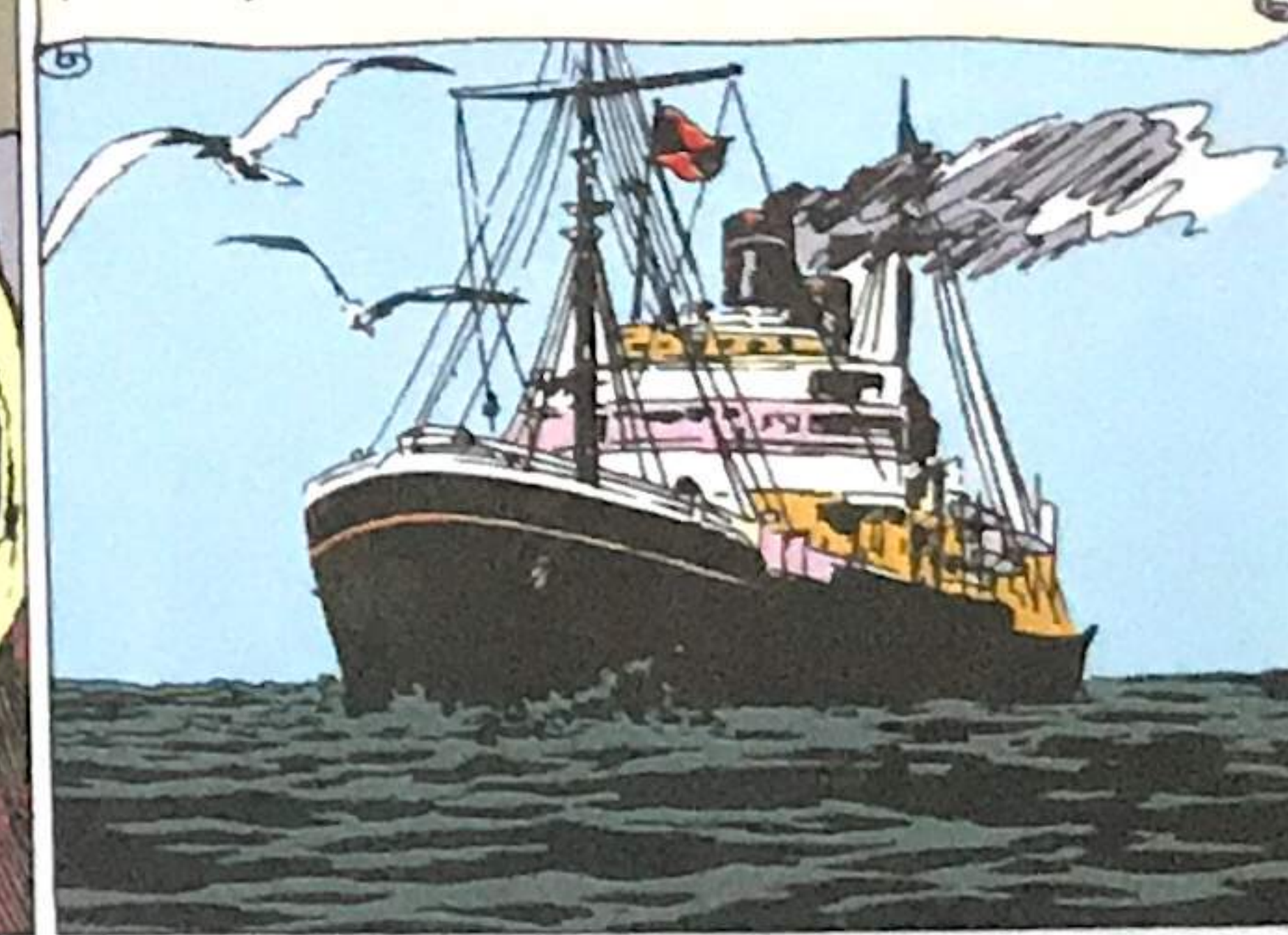
...AND ABOUT PATRIOTS FROM OTHER LANDS

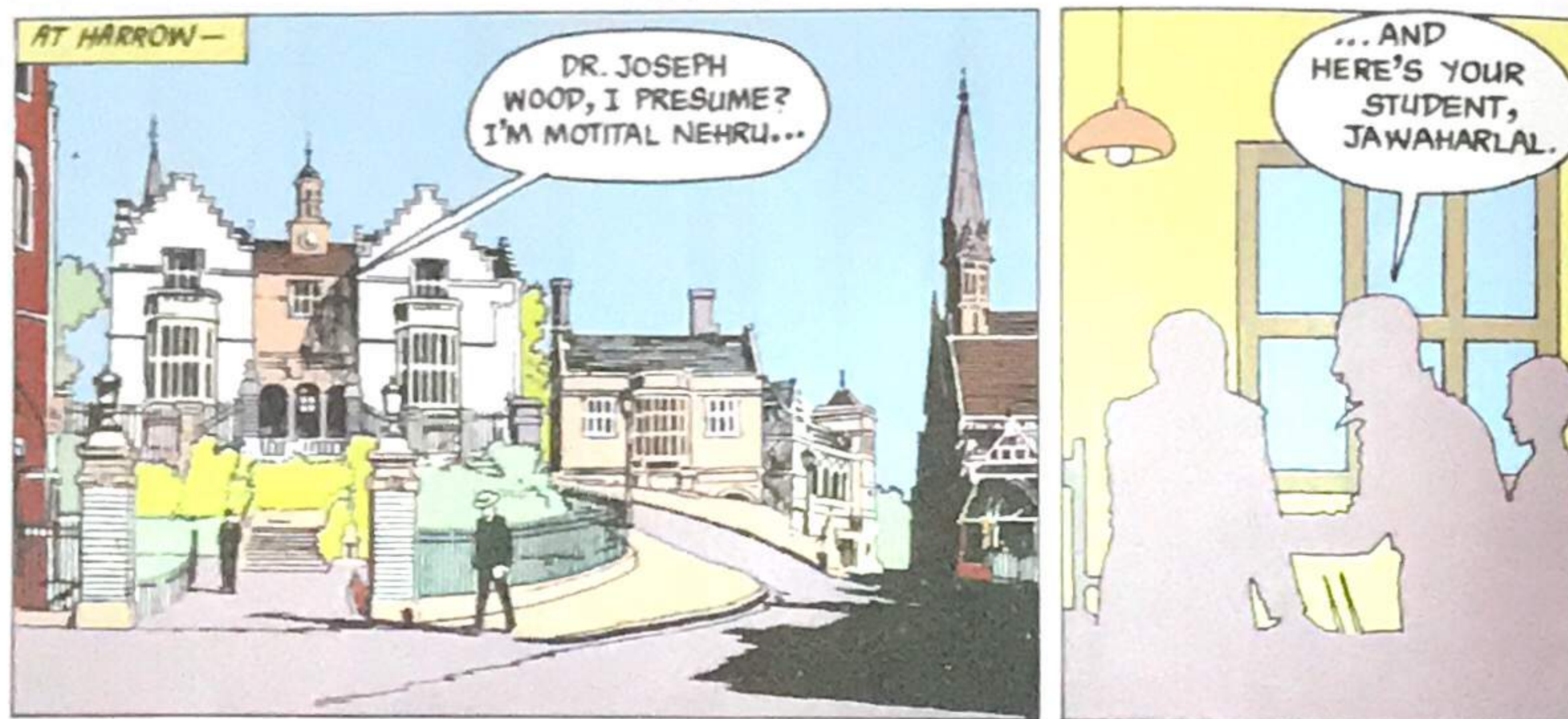


IN 1905, MOTILAL THOUGHT THAT HIS SON'S EDUCATION WAS NOT SATISFACTORY.



SO IN MAY 1905, WHEN JAWAHAR WAS ABOUT FIFTEEN, THE FAMILY SET SAIL FOR ENGLAND.

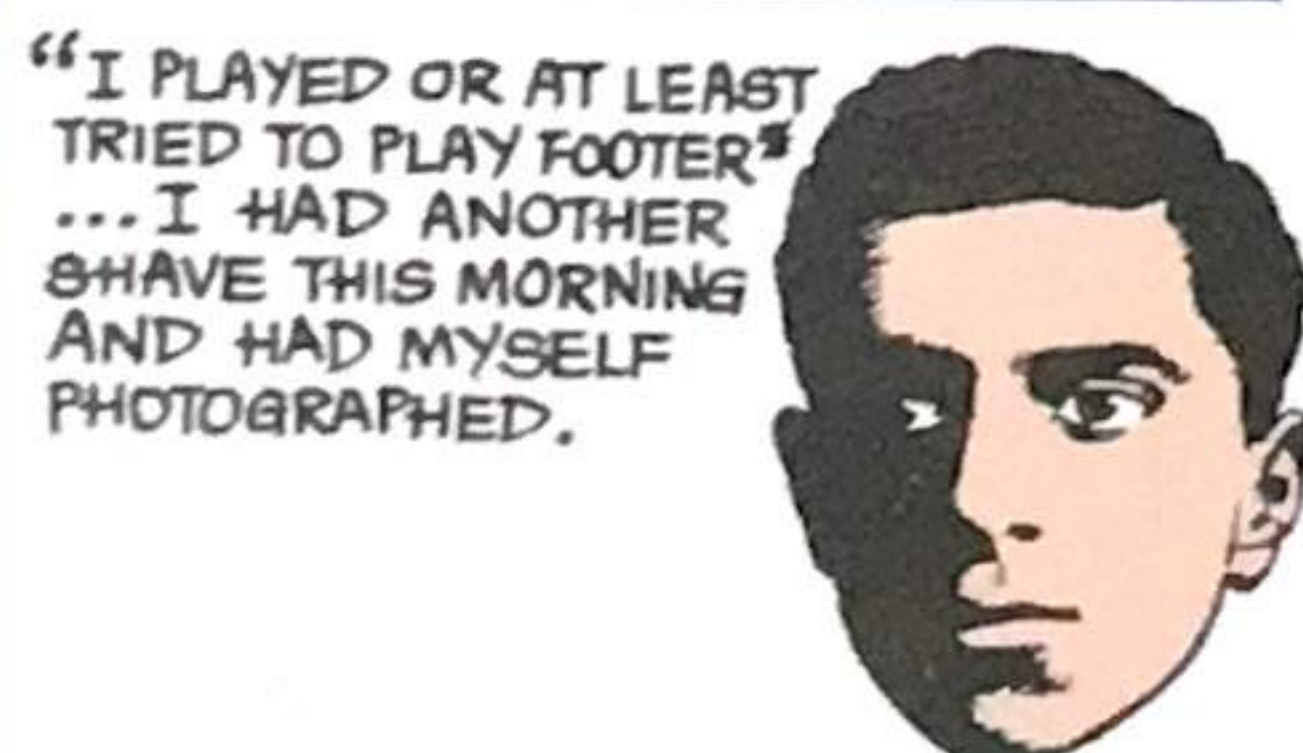




LEAVING HIS SON IN GOOD HANDS, MOTILAL TOOK HIS FAMILY FOR A WHIRLWIND TOUR OF EUROPE. BEFORE SAILING FOR INDIA, MOTILAL WROTE TO HIS SON.

In you we are leaving the dearest treasure we have in the world and perhaps the worlds to come. It is not a question of providing for you for I can do that in a single year's income. It is a question of making a real man of you which you are bound to be. I never thought I loved you so much as when I had to part with you.

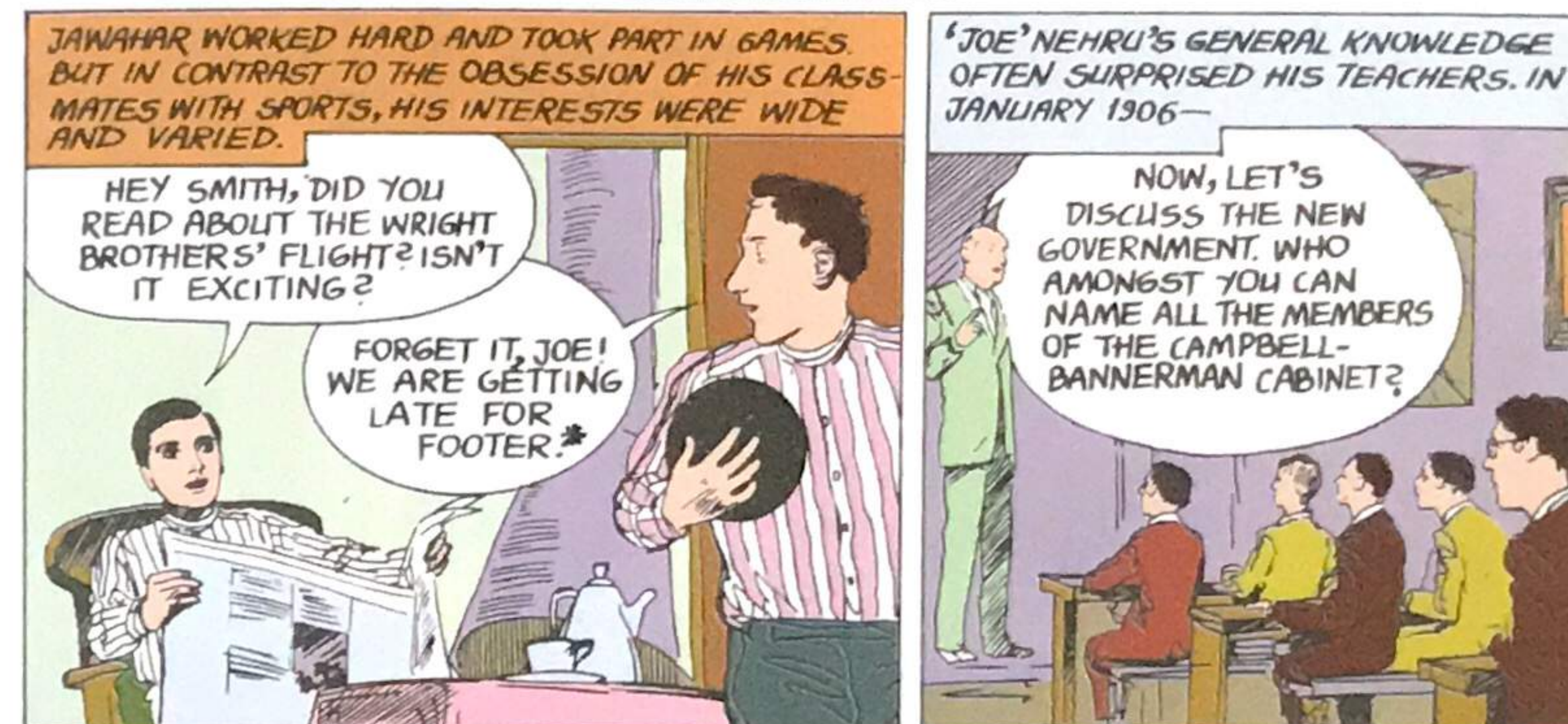
THIS CONFIDENCE OF THE FATHER PERHAPS HELPED THE SON TO ADJUST HIMSELF TO LIFE AT HARROW.



"I PLAYED OR AT LEAST TRIED TO PLAY FOOTER* ... I HAD ANOTHER SHAVE THIS MORNING AND HAD MYSELF PHOTOGRAPHED.

"I OUGHT NOT TO HAVE SHAVEN SO SOON, BUT I WANTED TO LOOK QUITE CLEAN-SHAVEN TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED.

"IT WILL BE QUITE SOME TIME BEFORE I SHAVE AGAIN.



ONLY JAWAHAR COULD DISCUSS THE NEW CABINET OF THE COUNTRY TO WHICH HE WAS A FOREIGNER.



ALTHOUGH HE FELT HE WAS "NOT AN EXACT FIT" AT HARROW, JAWAHAR DID TRY HARD AND TOPPED HIS FORM TWICE.



HEADMASTER JOSEPH WOOD WROTE TO MOTILAL ON MAY 19, 1906.



THE BOOK FASCINATED YOUNG NEHRU SO MUCH THAT HE PROMPTLY BOUGHT THE OTHER TWO VOLUMES.



SINCE ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS HARDLY COVERED EVENTS IN INDIA, JAWAHAR REQUESTED HIS FATHER TO SEND HIM INDIAN NEWSPAPERS REGULARLY. HIS FATHER'S LETTERS WERE FILLED WITH NEWS OF NATIONAL EVENTS...

we are passing through the most critical period of the British-Indian history. If this movement only continues, you will, on your return, find an India quite different to the India you left...



... WHILE HIS MOTHER'S LETTERS WERE TENDER AND PERSONAL.

... HA, HA, HA. NEVER, NEVER CATCH A COLD HA, HA...



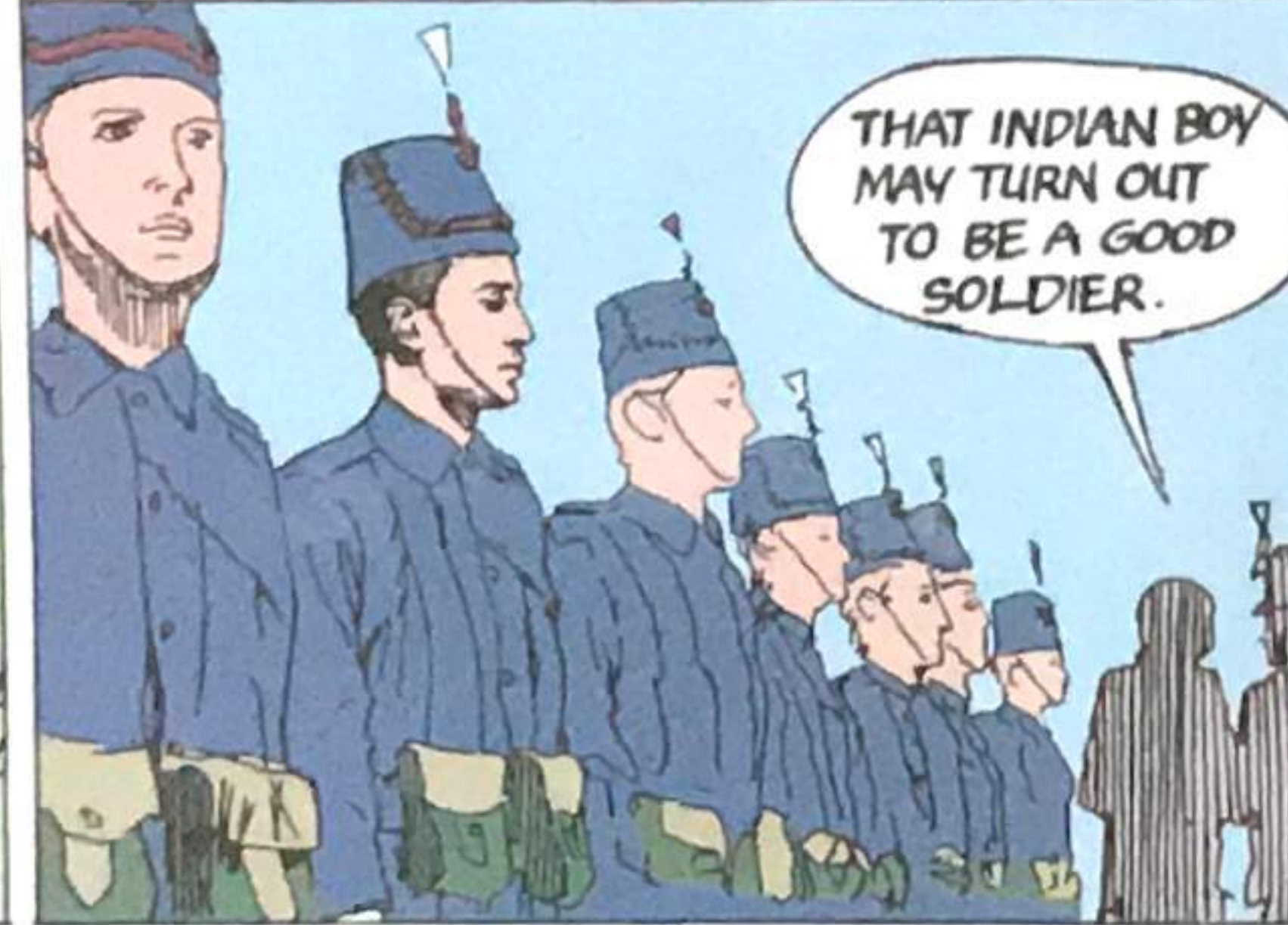
... WEAR SUFFICIENT CLOTHES. DO WEAR AN OVERCOAT. SPREAD THE THICK RUG ON THE BED, COVER YOURSELF WITH THE NEW ONE...

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS LATER, HIS HOUSEMASTER AT HARROW WAS TO WRITE ABOUT HIS PUPIL, JAWAHAR.

Nehru was a nice boy... quiet and very refined. He was not very demonstrative, but one felt there was great strength of character... I should doubt if he told many boys what his opinions were, or the masters with whom he had a very good name, as he worked well and seldom (almost never) gave trouble.



OVERALL, JAWAHAR ENJOYED HIS STAY AT HARROW. HE JOINED THE RIFLE CLUB AND THE CADET CORPS.



THAT INDIAN BOY MAY TURN OUT TO BE A GOOD SOLDIER.

BUT BY 1907, AT 18, HE WAS RESTLESS AND FELT HE HAD OUTGROWN HARROW. HE SAT FOR THE ENTRANCE EXAM TO CAMBRIDGE.

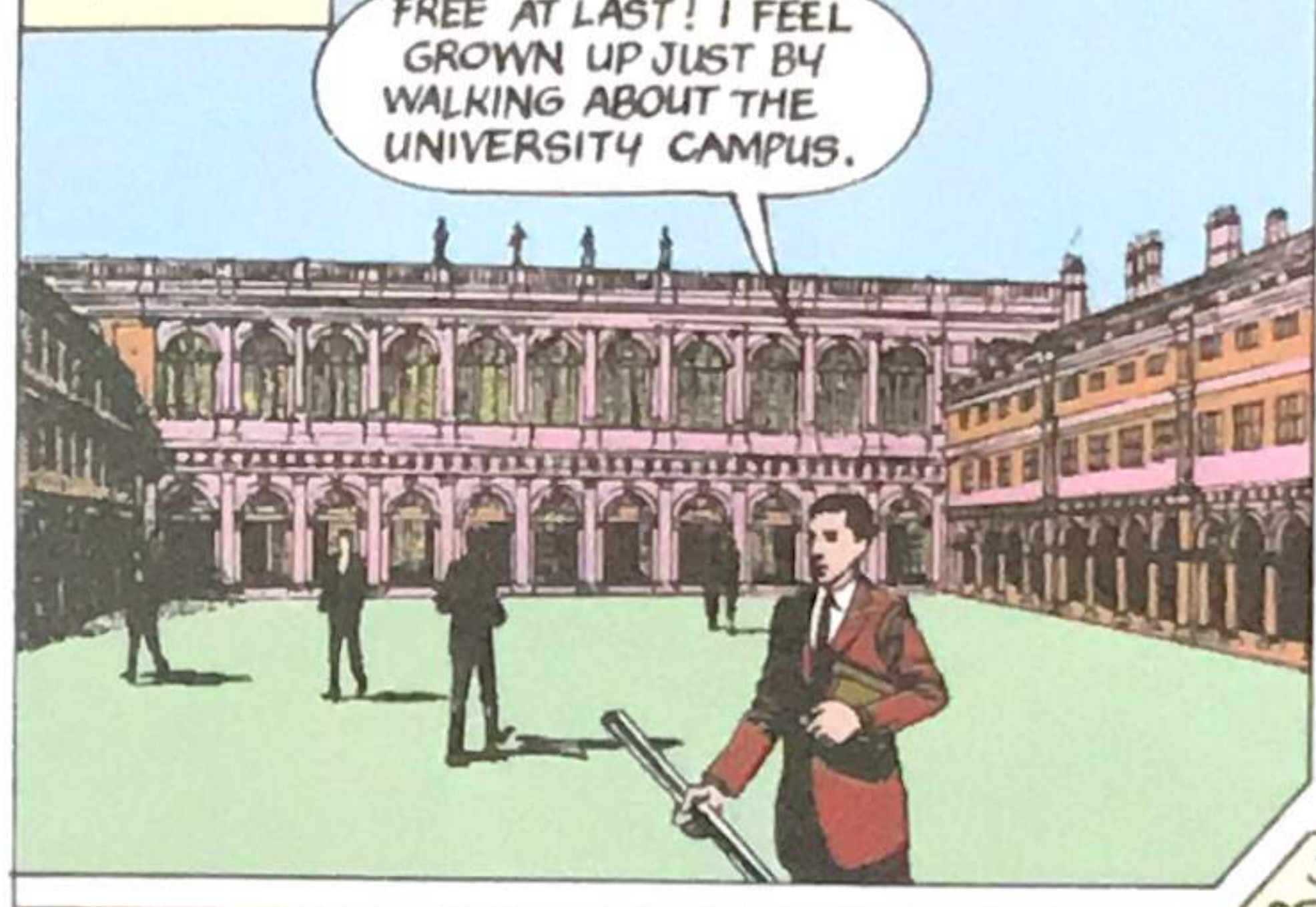


THOUGH HAPPY TO BE LEAVING SCHOOL, ON THE LAST NIGHT AT HARROW, HE FOUND HIS PILLOW COVERED WITH TEARS.



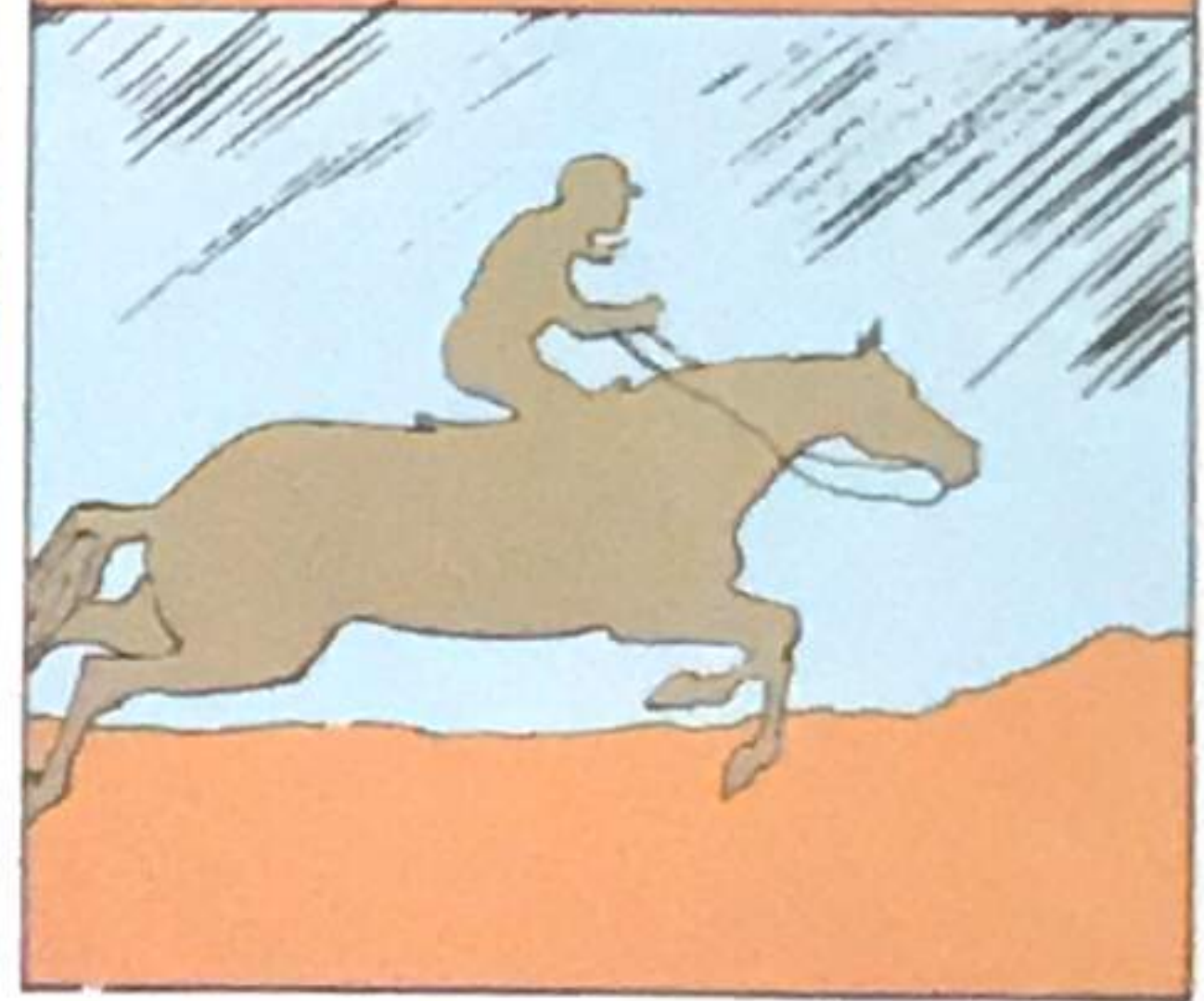
I DID NOT KNOW I HAD GROWN SO FOND OF THIS PLACE.

ON OCTOBER 1907, HE JOINED TRINITY COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE.



FREE AT LAST! I FEEL GROWN UP JUST BY WALKING ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.

HE PLAYED TENNIS, RODE A GREAT DEAL AND WAS MADE COXSWAIN OF CAMBRIDGE ROWING TEAM.



ALTHOUGH JAWAHAR TOOK THE NATURAL SCIENCE TRIPDS. WITH CHEMISTRY, GEOLOGY AND BOTANY, HIS INTERESTS WERE WIDENING.



MR. NEHRU, YOU WANTED THIS 20-VOLUME EDITION OF DICKENS TOO WHEN YOU BOUGHT THE 20 VOLUMES OF THACKERAY. WHAT HAPPENED?

OH! I WROTE TO MY FATHER FOR MONEY, BUT HE SAID HE COULDN'T AFFORD TO BUY A WHOLE LIBRARY FOR ME!

JAWAHAR JOINED MAGPIE AND STUMP, THE DEBATING SOCIETY WITHIN A WEEK OF ENTERING COLLEGE. BUT HE NEVER ONCE SPOKE AT THE MEETINGS. AT THE END OF THE TERM—



YOU'VE NEVER BROKEN AT ANY DEBATE DURING THE ENTIRE TERM.

YOU KNOW THE RULES, MR. NEHRU.

OH QUITE! I'LL PAY THE FINE.

... AND GLADLY TOO! BETTER THAN SPEAK IN PUBLIC.

BUT HE LINGERED ON AT THE COZY, INFORMAL FIRESIDE CHATS WHICH STRETCHED LATE INTO THE NIGHT.



WHEW! IT'S PAST MIDNIGHT. BETTER TURN IN NOW.

AND IT'S TOO COLD... EVEN FOR HEATED DISCUSSIONS ON PHILOSOPHY.

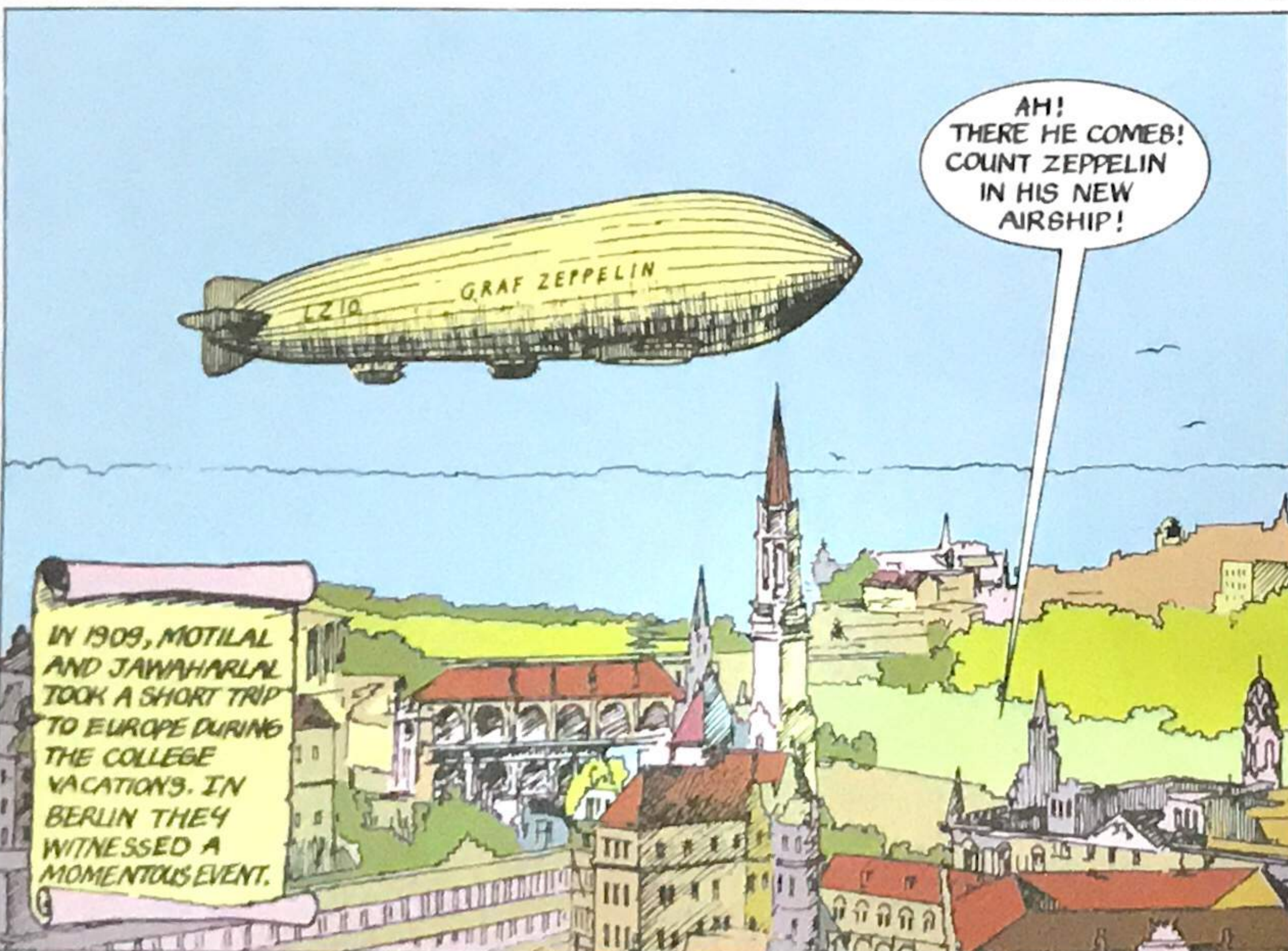
THE INDIAN STUDENTS AT CAMBRIDGE OFTEN DISCUSSED THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS OF INDIA AT THEIR DEBATING SOCIETY 'MAJLIS'. WHILE THEIR DISCUSSIONS WERE FAR REMOVED FROM REALITY, THE ACTUAL SCENE BACK HOME WAS PULSATING WITH LIFE.

IN MAHARASHTRA BAL GANGADHAR TILAK HAD BEGUN TO MOBILISE PUBLIC OPINION BY HIS FIERY SPEECHES AND INSPIRING WRITINGS.

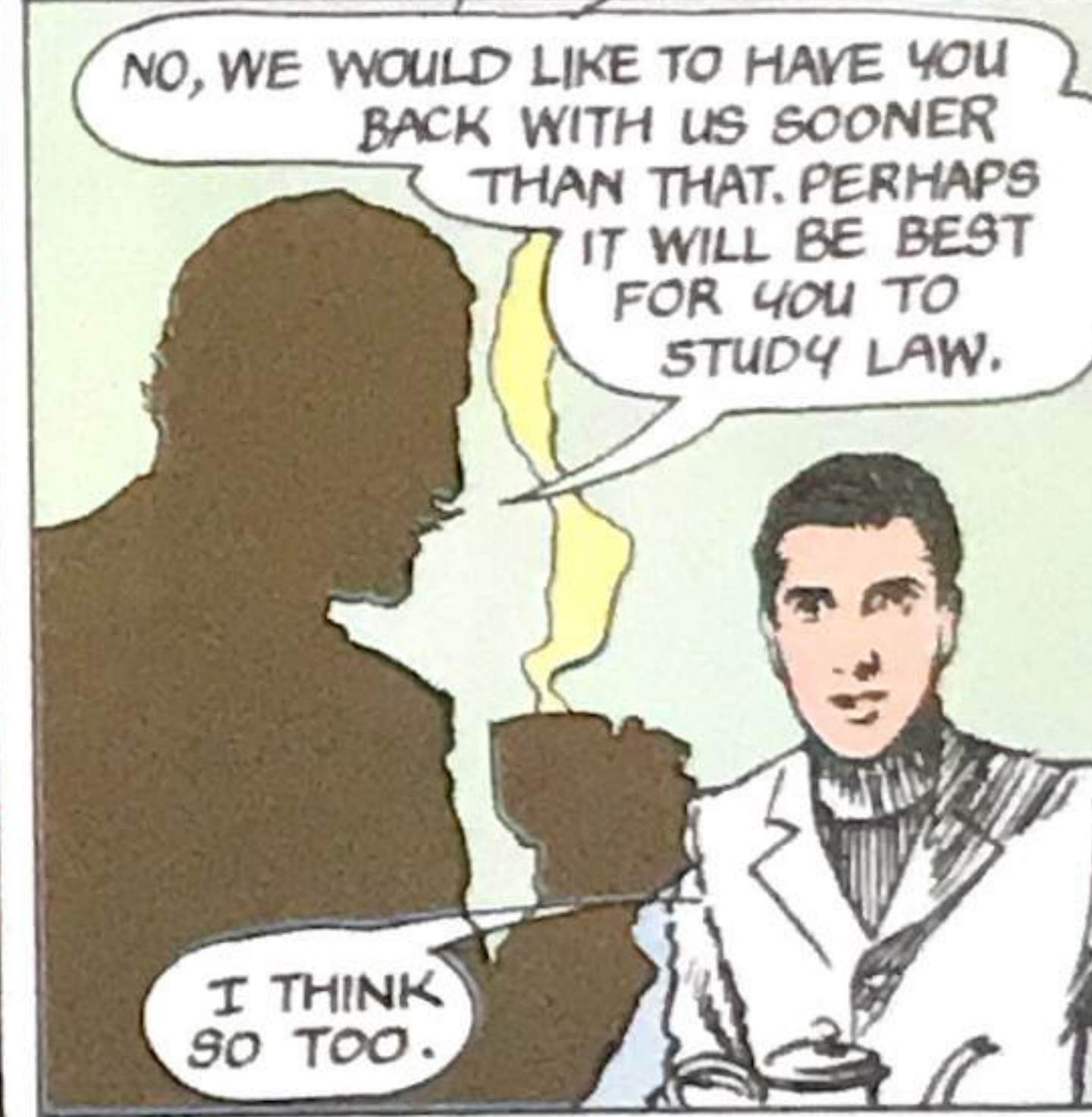
IN PUNJAB, LALA LAJPAT RAI AND SARDAR AJIT SINGH SPEARHEADED THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT.

IN BENGAL, BEPIN CHANDRA PAL AND AUROBINDO GHOSH CREATED A WAVE OF NATIONALIST FERVOUR.

MANY OF THESE LEADERS VISITED CAMBRIDGE AND JAWAHARLAL HEARD THEIR SPEECHES TO THE STUDENTS.



FOR LONG, FATHER AND SON HAD BEEN CORRESPONDING ABOUT JAWAHARLAL'S FUTURE PLANS. NOW-



IN 1910, JAWAHAR GRADUATED FROM CAMBRIDGE WITH A SECOND CLASS HONOURS. EVEN BEFORE HIS FINAL EXAM, HE HAD JOINED THE INNER TEMPLE TO STUDY LAW.



AFTER HIS GRADUATION, JAWAHARLAL WENT FOR A PLEASURE CRUISE TO NORWAY WITH A FEW FRIENDS.



BUT AT THE SMALL MOUNTAIN-SIDE HOTEL —



ARMED WITH TABLE NAPKINS, JOE AND A FRIEND SET FORTH FOR A BATH.



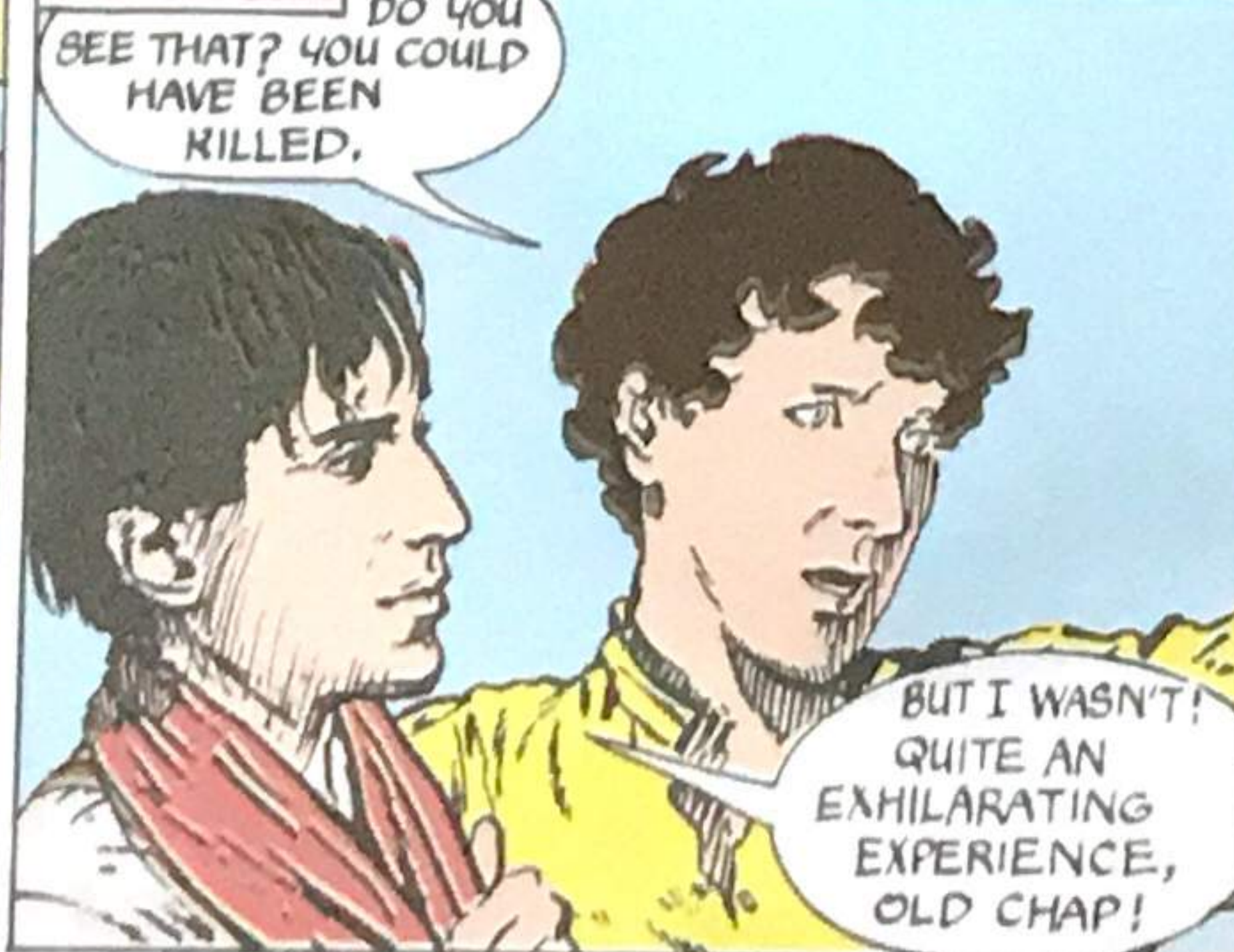
BUT JAWAHAR SLIPPED AND WAS SOON SWEEPED OFF HIS FEET BY THE CURRENT.



JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME, HIS COMPANION RUSHED OUT OF THE WATER AND RUNNING ALONGSIDE, DRAGGED HIM OUT.



TWO HUNDRED YARDS AHEAD WAS AN ENORMOUS PRECIPICE.



FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS, JAWAHARLAL WAS IN LONDON STUDYING LAW.



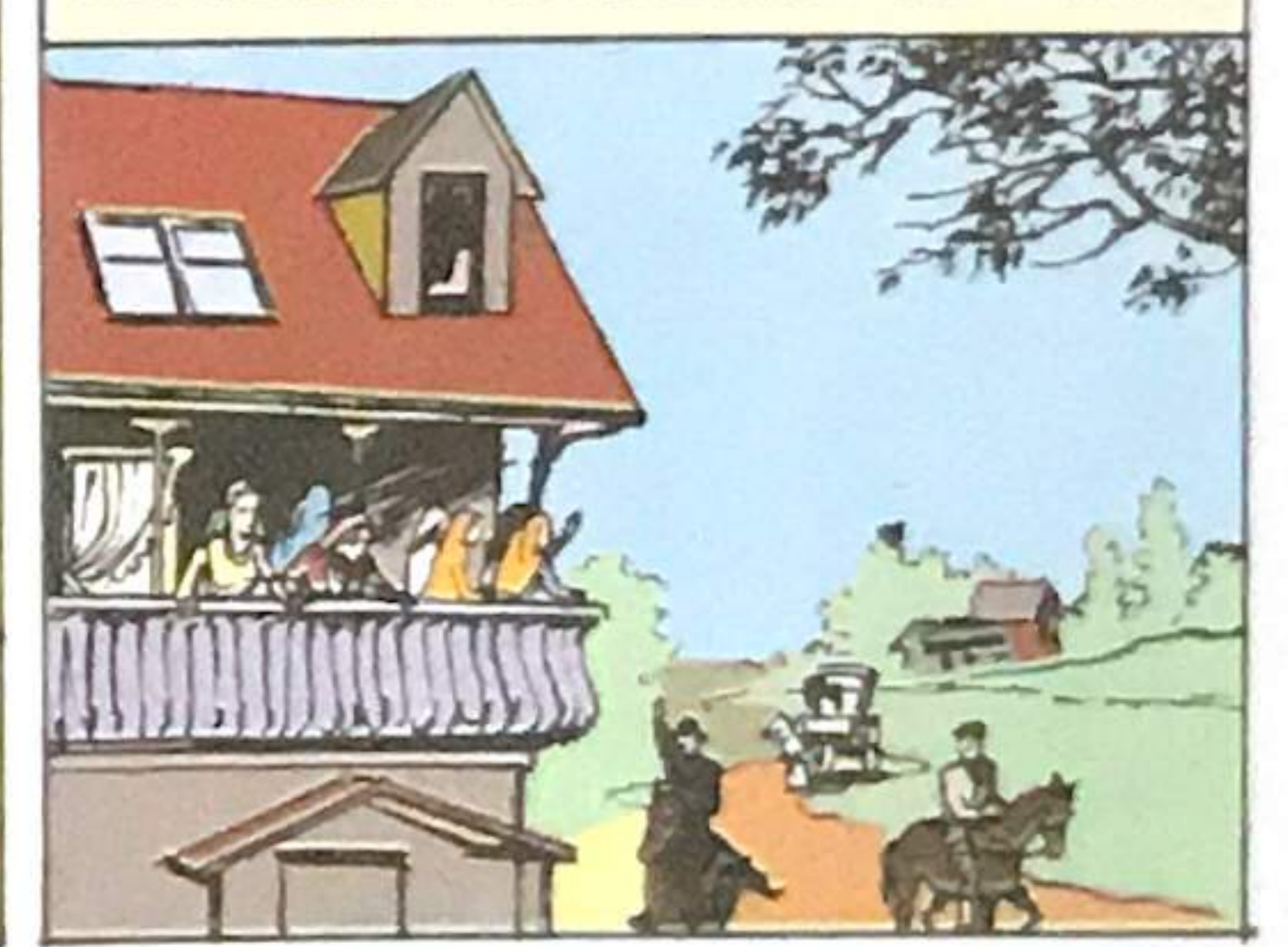
WITH A LOT OF SPARE TIME ON HIS HANDS AND A GENEROUS ALLOWANCE, HE LED AN EXPENSIVE AND FASHIONABLE LIFE-STYLE.



IN THE SUMMER OF 1912, HE WAS CALLED TO THE BAR. LOOKING BACK AT HIS SEVEN YEARS IN ENGLAND, HE WROTE HOME —



IN JUNE 1912, HE RETURNED TO INDIA— HIS FAMILY HAD SHIFTED TO THE HILL-STATION OF MUSSOORIE TO ESCAPE ALLAHABAD'S SWELTERING SUMMER.

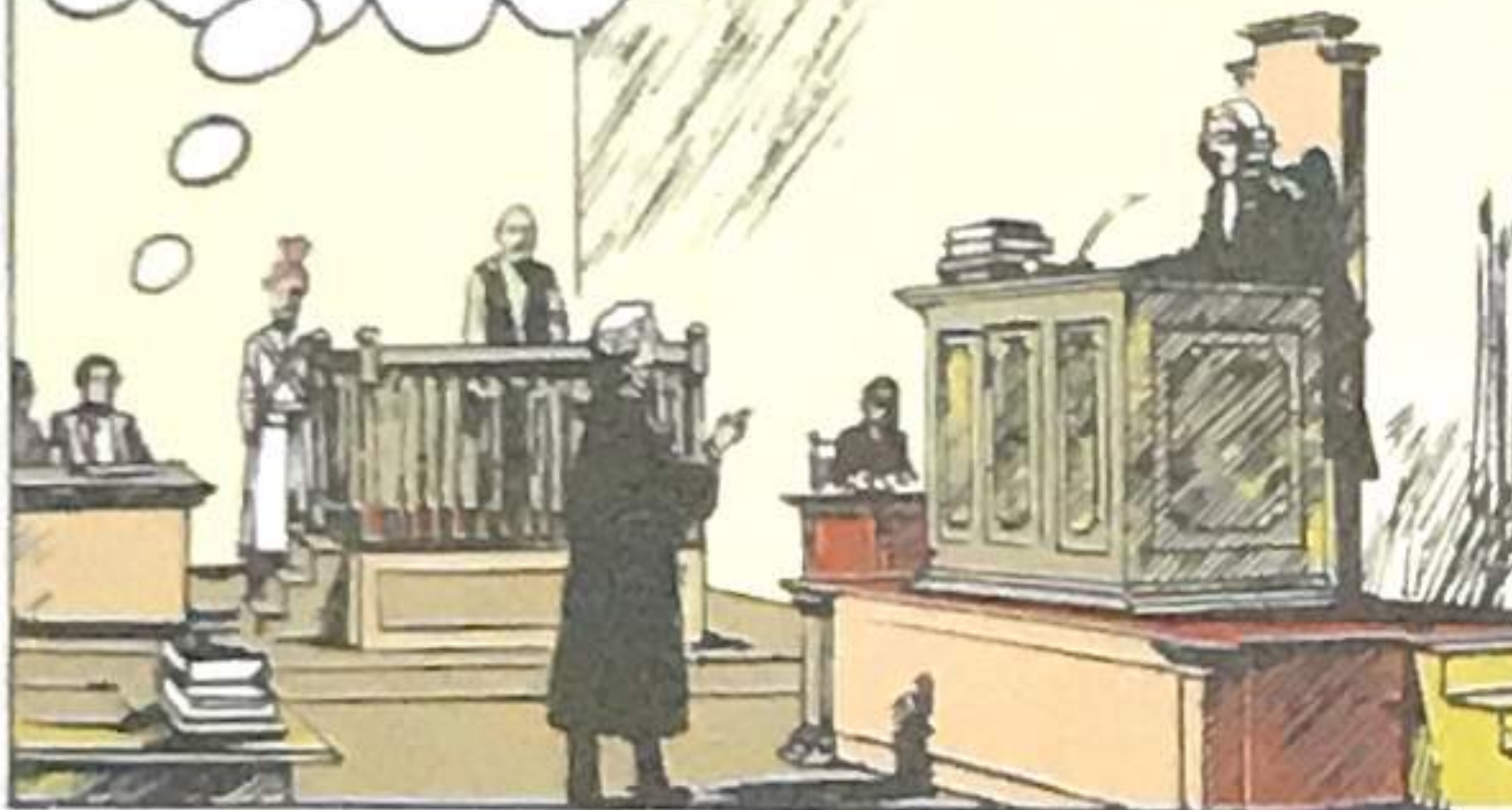


AFTER SWEEPING HIS MOTHER OFF HER FEET IN A FOND EMBRACE, HE TURNED TO THE NEW ADDITION IN THE FAMILY, HIS YOUNGER SISTER KRISHNA.



AFTER RETURNING TO ALLAHABAD, HE ATTENDED HIS FATHER'S CHAMBERS AND BEGAN PRACTICE AT THE HIGH COURT.

THE CAGES IN LAW BOOKS ARE SO LIVELY AND INTRICATE. BUT THE ACTUAL PRACTICE IS DULL AND PETTY.



HE FOUND LIFE TOO PREDICTABLE AND UTTERLY INSIPID.

SAME OLD PEOPLE IN THE COURT, THE LIBRARY, THE CLUB. SO BORING!



IN DECEMBER 1912, JAWAHARLAL ATTENDED FOR THE FIRST TIME THE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE CONGRESS AT BANKIPORE.

ANNUAL CONGRESS

IT LOOKS MORE LIKE A SOCIAL GATHERING IN ENGLAND THAN A POLITICAL MEETING.

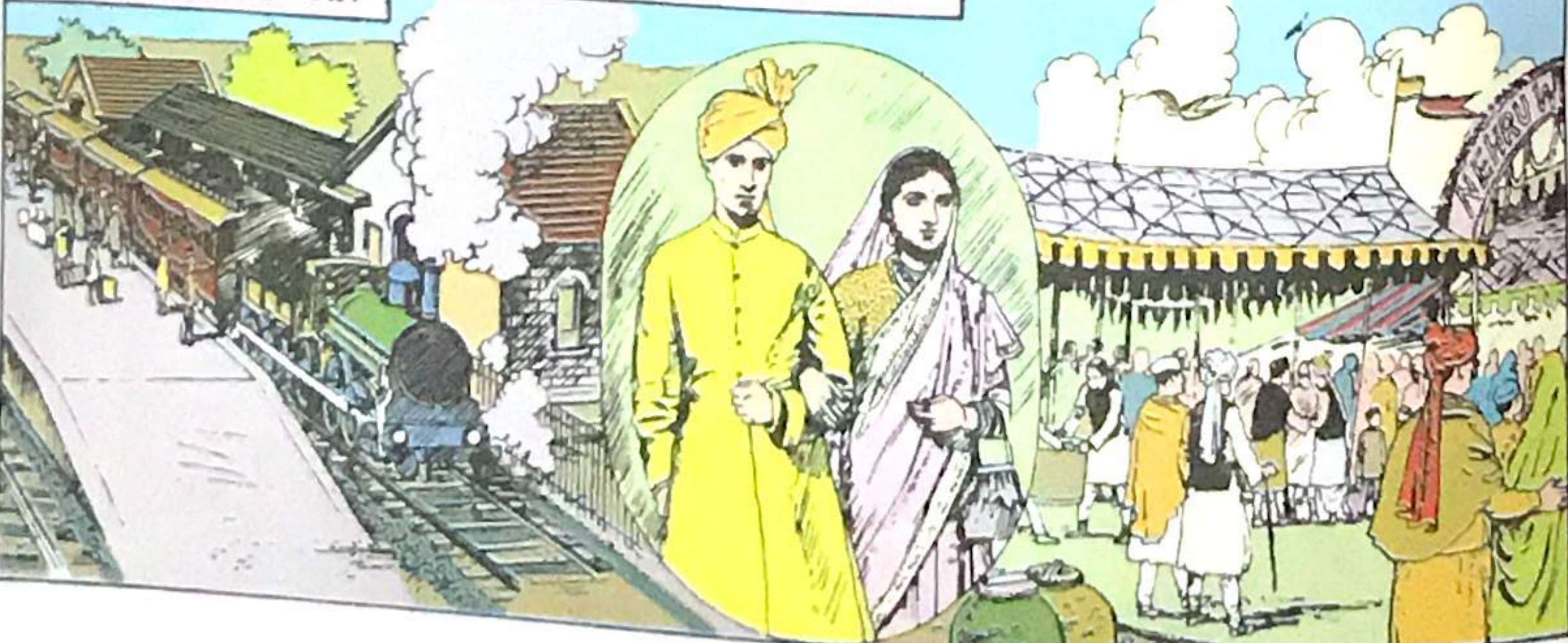


JAWAHAR'S FIRST PUBLIC WORK WAS RAISING FUNDS FOR THE PASSIVE RESISTANCE CAMPAIGN IN SOUTH AFRICA LED BY M.K. GANDHI. ON JUNE 10, 1916 AT ALLAHABAD, HE MADE HIS FIRST PUBLIC SPEECH.

THE INDIAN PRESS ACT OF 1910 IS MISCHIEVOUS AND POISONOUS, BECAUSE IT MUZZLES THE PRESS.



ON FEBRUARY 8, 1916, JAWAHARLAL NEHRU WAS MARRIED TO 16-YEAR OLD KAMALA KAIL. THE WEDDING WAS CELEBRATED IN GREAT STYLE. NO PLACE IN DELHI WAS BIG ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE THE HUNDREDS OF INVITEES. A SPECIAL NEHRU WEDDING CAMP WAS SET UP OUTSIDE DELHI. A SPECIAL TRAIN TRANSPORTED THE WEDDING PARTY FROM ALLAHABAD TO DELHI.



IN 1916, AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, THE MUSLIM LEAGUE AND THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS JOINED HANDS UNDER THE LUCKNOW PACT. IT WAS HERE THAT NEHRU FIRST MET MAHATMA GANDHI.



LATER, JAWAHARLAL NEHRU WAS DRAWN MORE AND MORE TO GANDHI AND HIS METHOD. ON HIS EARLY IMPRESSION OF GANDHI HE WROTE-

I was simply bowled over by Gandhi. He was like a powerful current. Like a light that pierced the darkness and removed the scales from our eyes. Like a whirlwind that upset many things, but he did not descend from the top, he seemed to emerge from the millions of India.

ON NOVEMBER 19, 1917, A DAUGHTER WAS BORN TO JAWAHARLAL AND KAMALA. SHE WAS NAMED INDIRA PRIYADARSHINI.

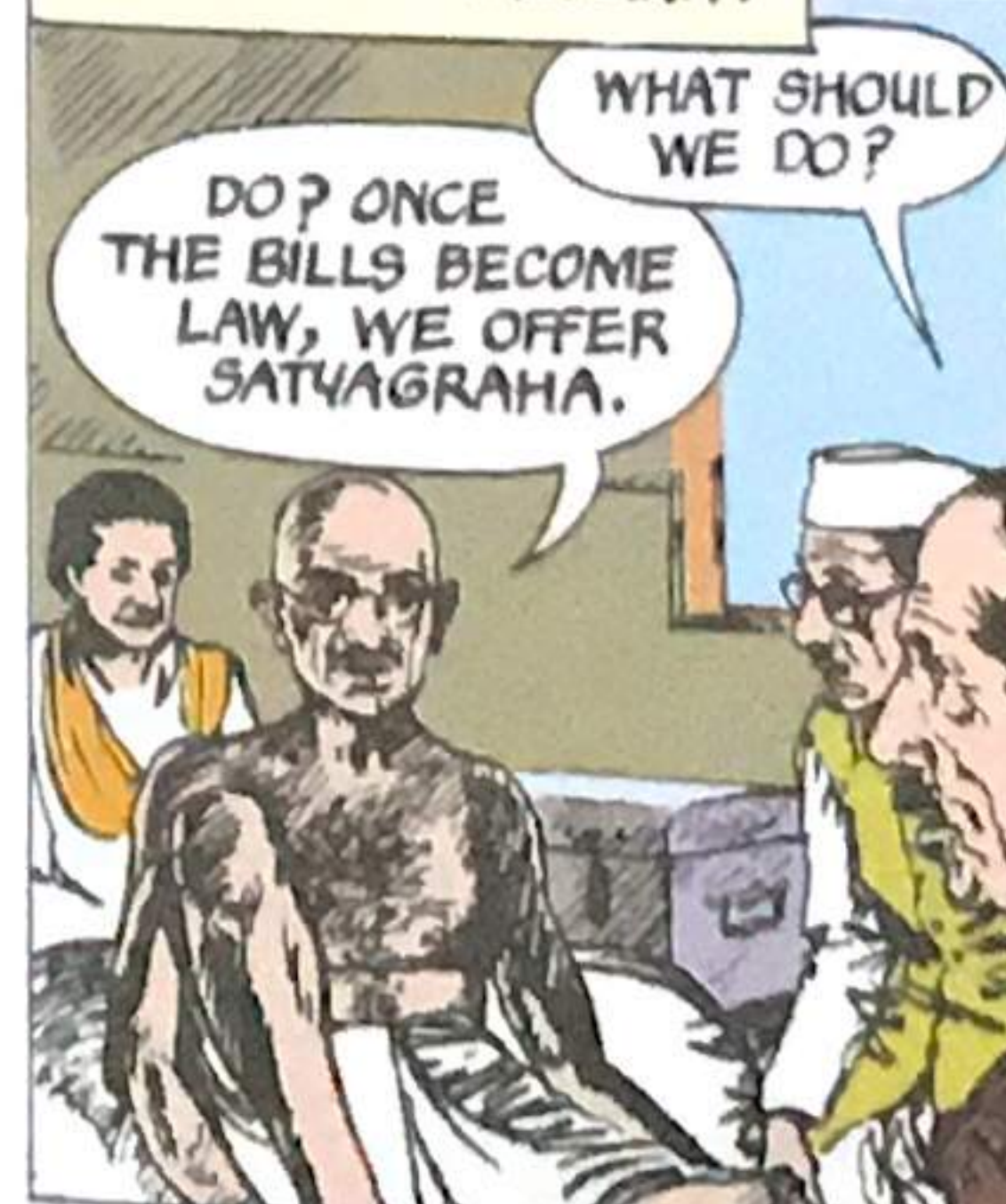


THE HOME RULE LEAGUE WAS FORMED IN ALLAHABAD WITH MOTILAL NEHRU AS THE PRESIDENT AND JAWAHARLAL AS SECRETARY. IN FEBRUARY 1919, MOTILAL NEHRU LAUNCHED HIS OWN ENGLISH DAILY NEWSPAPER CALLED THE INDEPENDENT. IT BEGAN WITH A SEVERE CRITICISM OF THE ROWLATT BILLS.



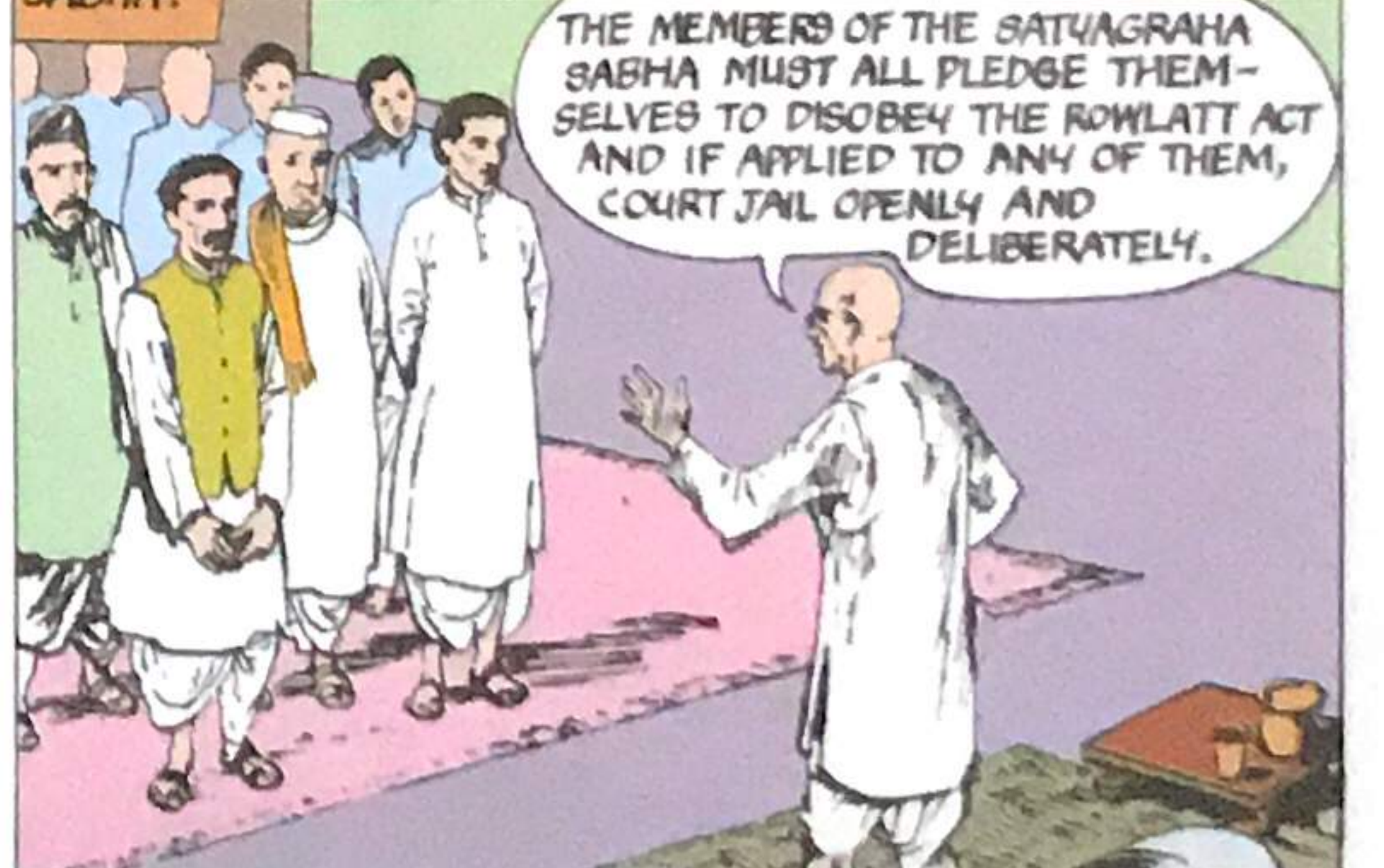
IT IS AN ACT BY WHICH THE GOVERNMENT CAN ARREST AND TRY ANYONE THEY SUSPECT OF BEING A POLITICAL OFFENDER. NO JURY, NO TRIAL, NO APPEAL.

FOR GANDHI THIS WAS ANOTHER OCCASION TO USE HIS SPECIAL WEAPON - SATYAGRAHA.



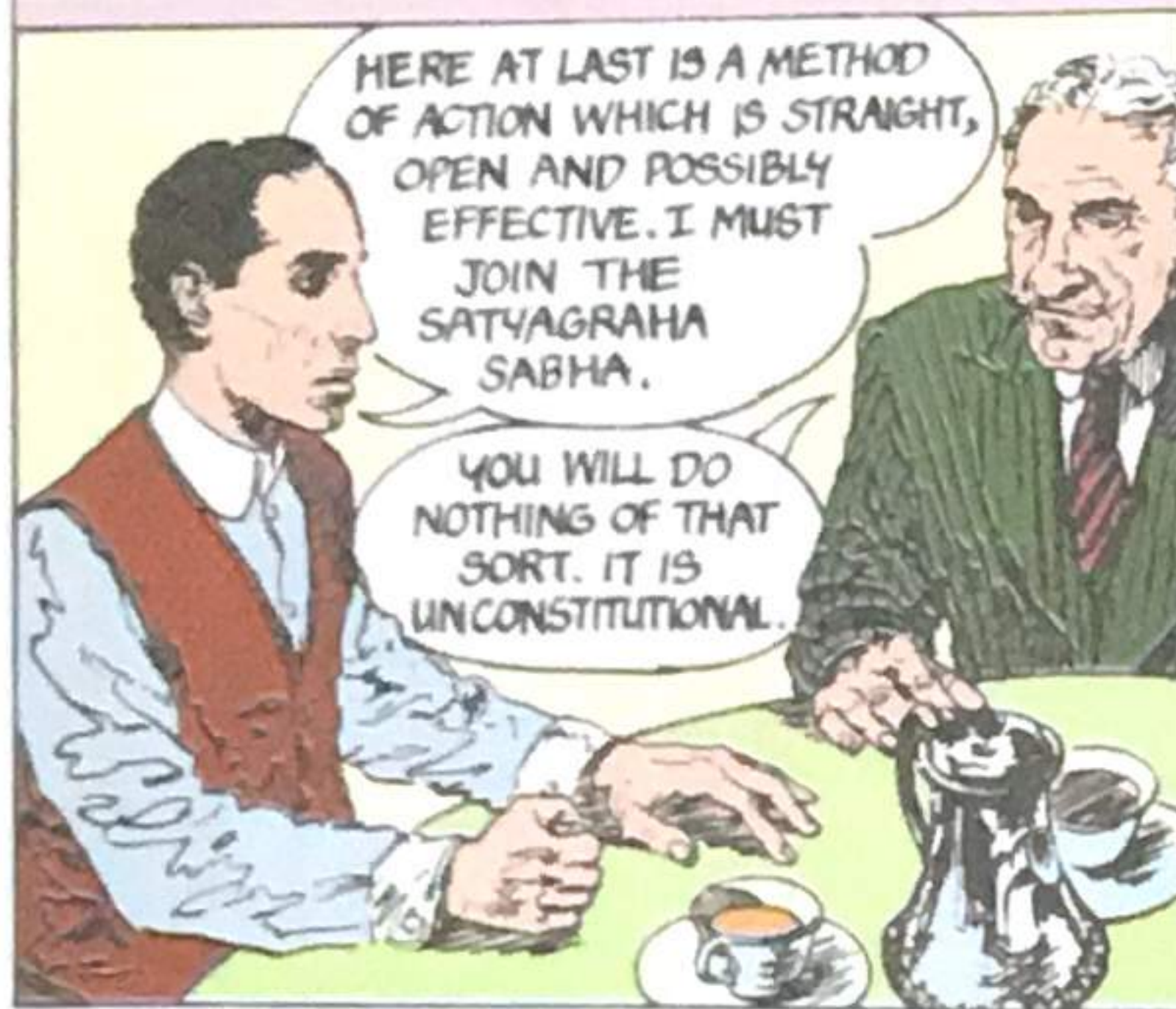
* PASSIVE RESISTANCE

WHEN GANDHI'S APPEAL TO THE VICEROY TO WITHDRAW THE MEASURES WAS NOT HEARD, HE LAUNCHED THE SATYAGRAHA SABHA.



THE MEMBERS OF THE SATYAGRAHA SABHA MUST ALL PLEDGE THEMSELVES TO DISOBEY THE ROWLATT ACT AND IF APPLIED TO ANY OF THEM, COURT JAIL OPENLY AND DELIBERATELY.

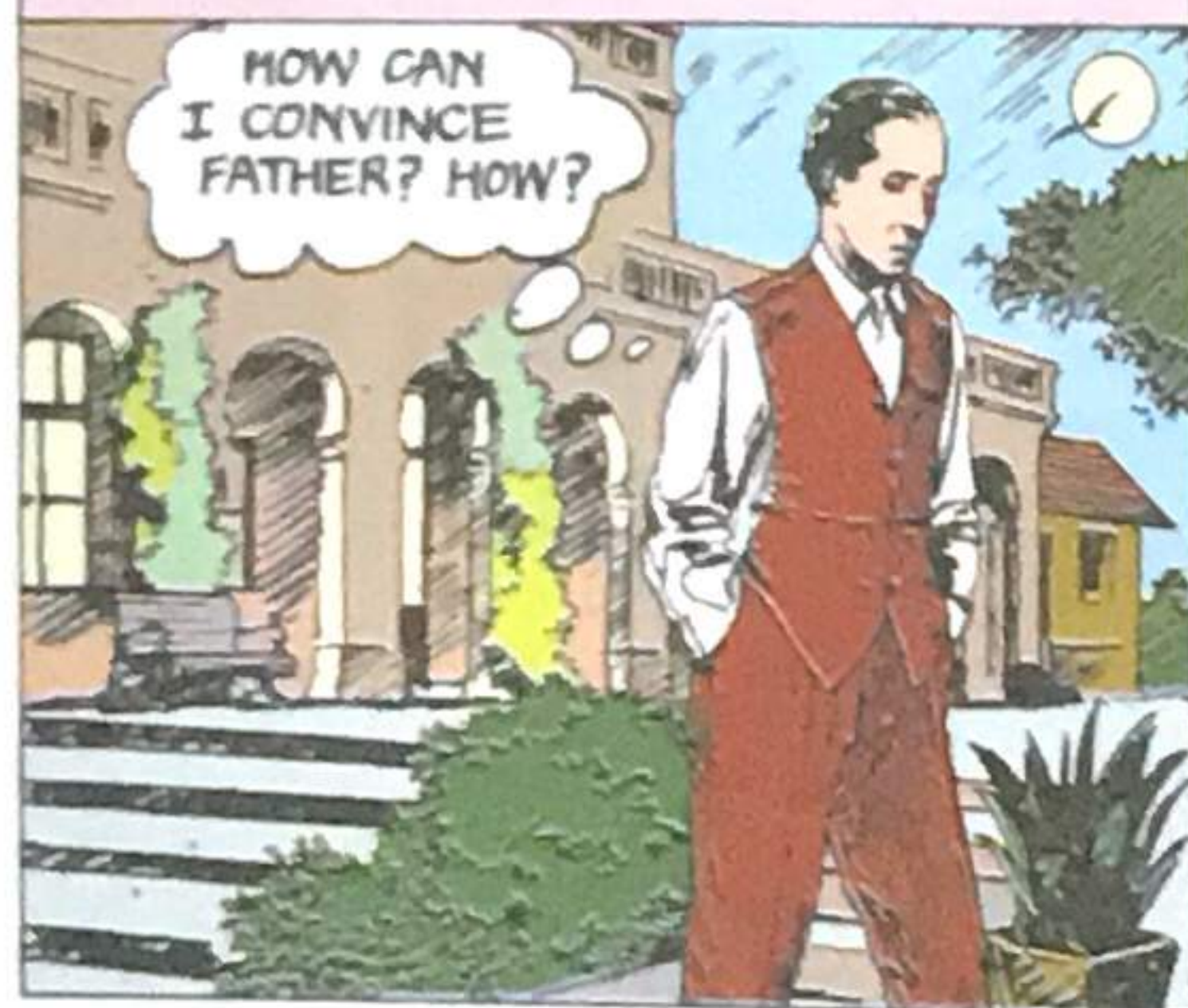
THE REACTIONS OF MOTILAL AND JAWAHARLAL TO GANDHI'S STANCE WERE STRIKINGLY DIFFERENT.



BITTER ARGUMENTS RAGED BETWEEN FATHER AND SON ALL DAY.



AT NIGHT, WHILE THE SON WALKED RESTLESSLY ON THE GROUNDS OF ANAND BHAVAN...



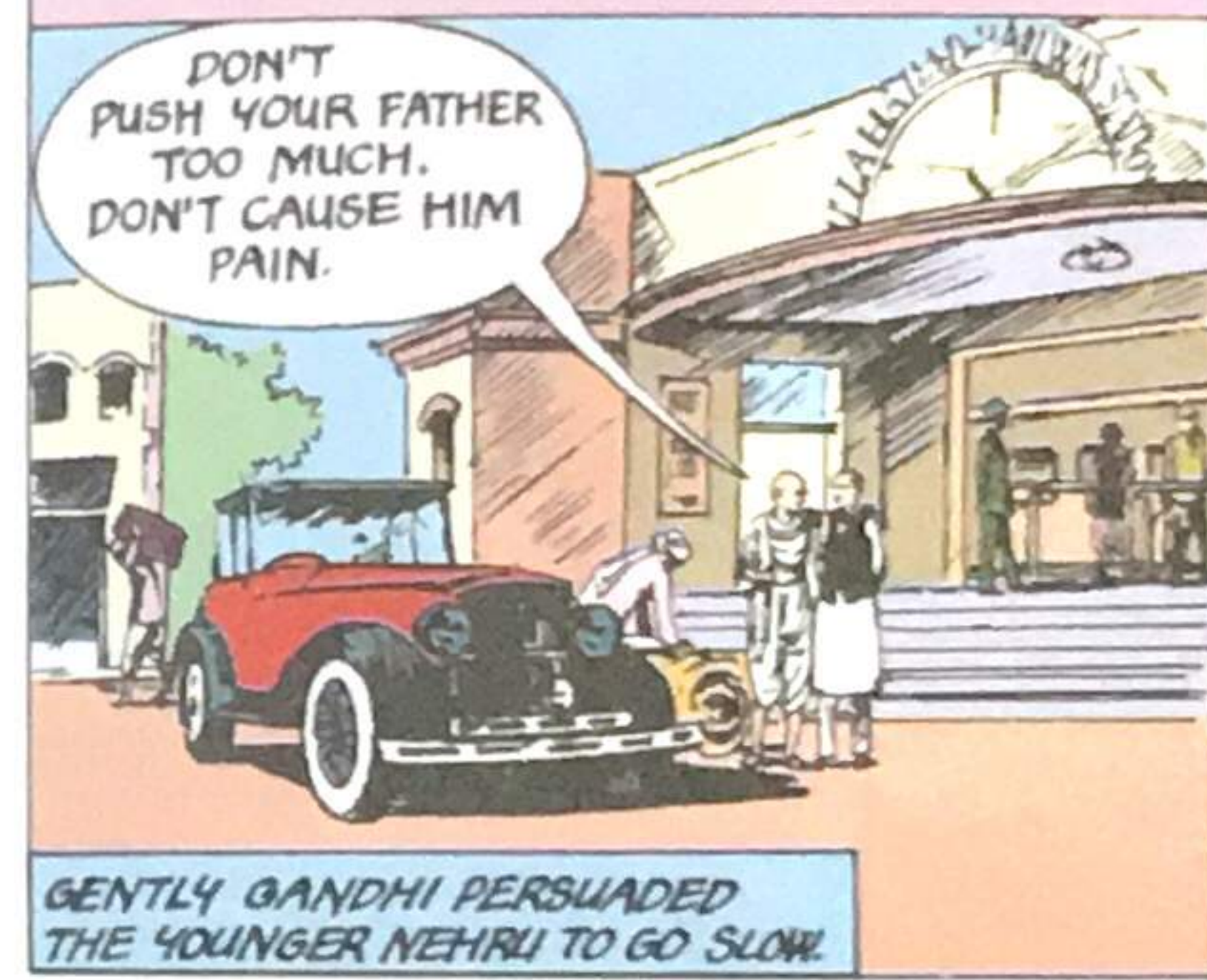
...THE FATHER TRIED TO SLEEP ON THE BARE FLOOR OF HIS ROOM.



ON MOTILAL'S REQUEST, GANDHI CAME TO ALLAHABAD FOR A VISIT. HE HAD LONG TALKS WITH MOTILAL.



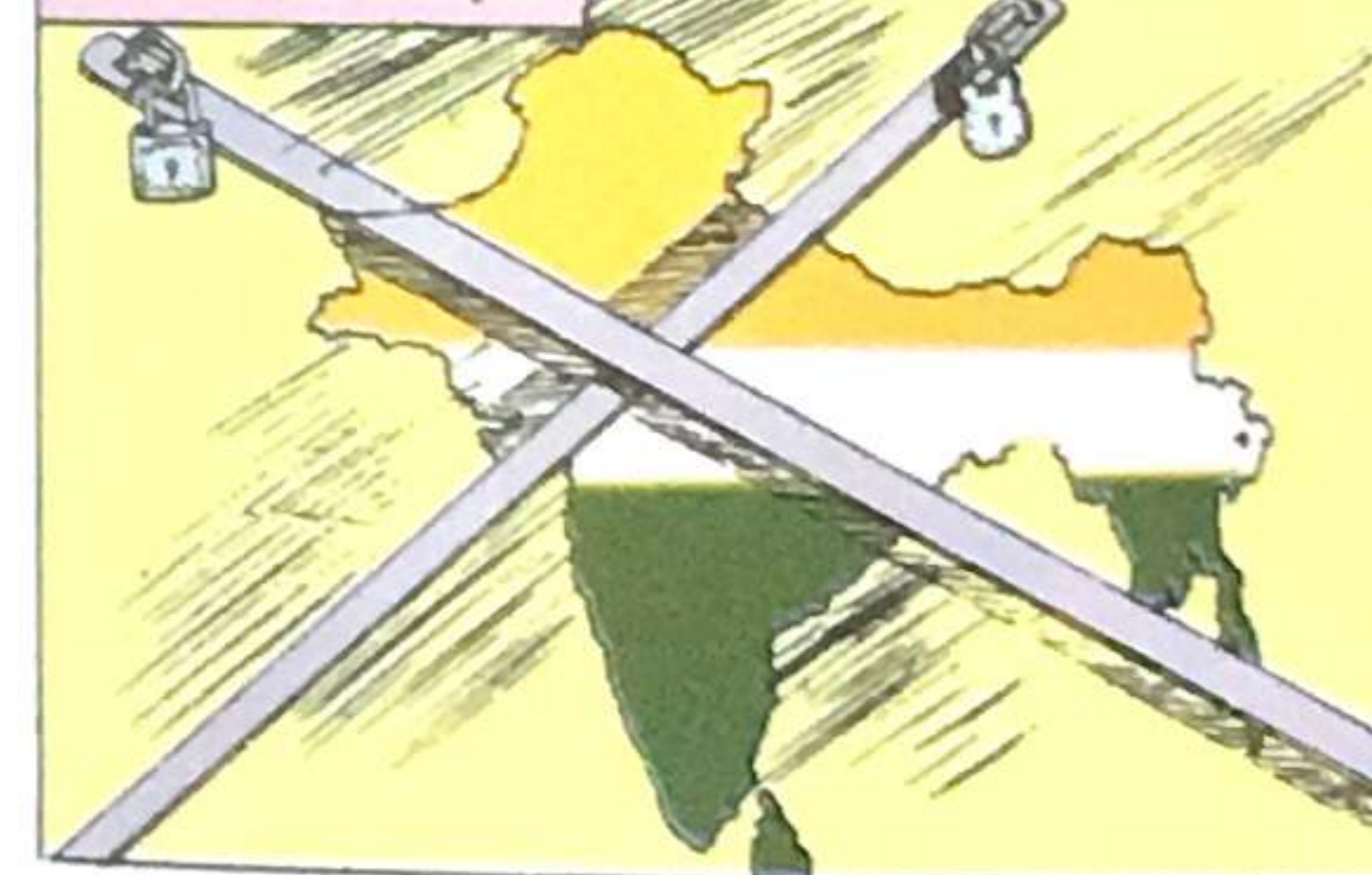
AS AN OUTCOME OF THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FATHER, GANDHI APPEALED TO THE SON.



MOTILAL HAD SUCCEEDED IN WEANING HIS SON AWAY FROM ACTIVE POLITICS BUT NOT FOR LONG. GANDHI CALLED UPON THE COUNTRY TO OBSERVE MARCH 30 AS SATYAGRAHA DAY.



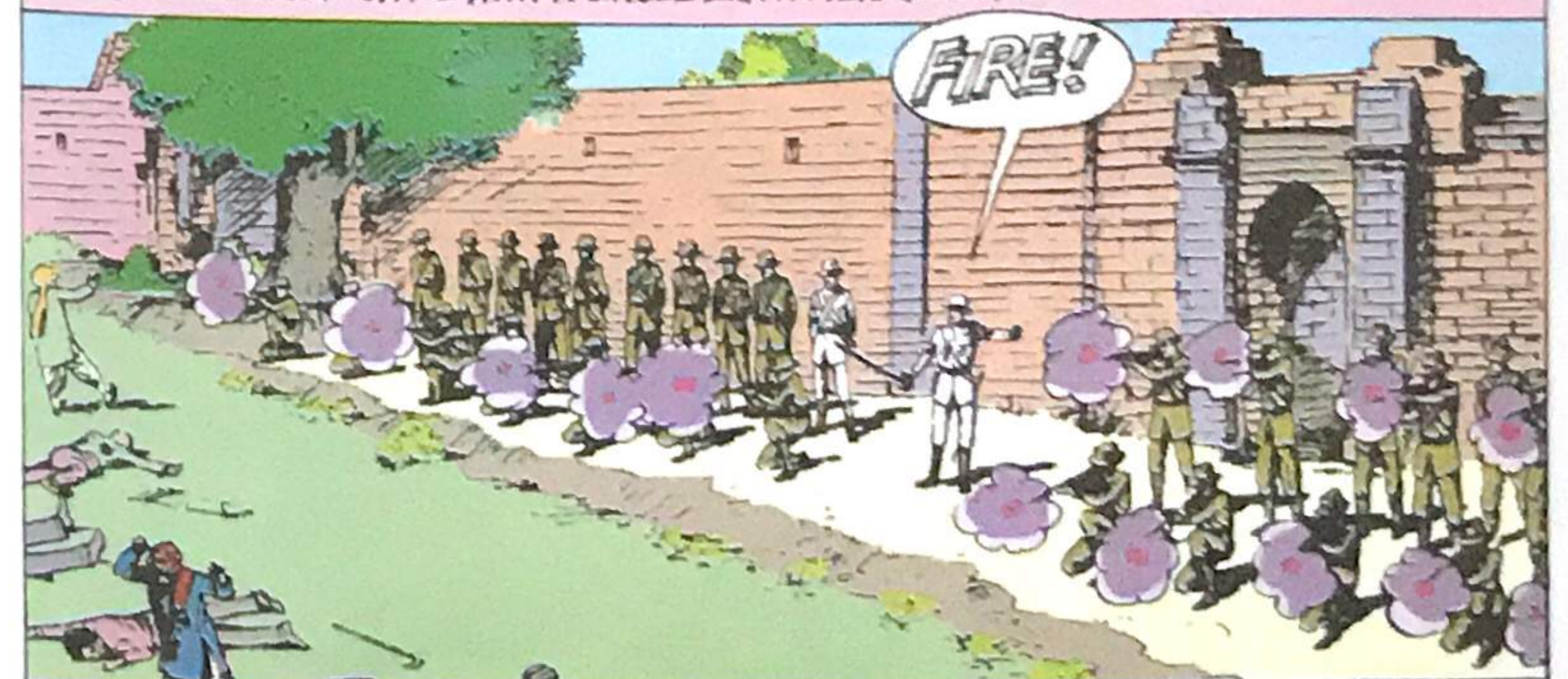
EXCEPT IN DELHI, THE DATE WAS LATER POSTPONED ON 6TH APRIL. BUSINESS CAME TO A STANDSTILL EVERYWHERE. IN ALLAHABAD, JAWAHARLAL NEHRU WORKED HARD TO MAKE THE HARTAL A SUCCESS. THE WHOLE NATION STOOD STILL IN RESPONSE.



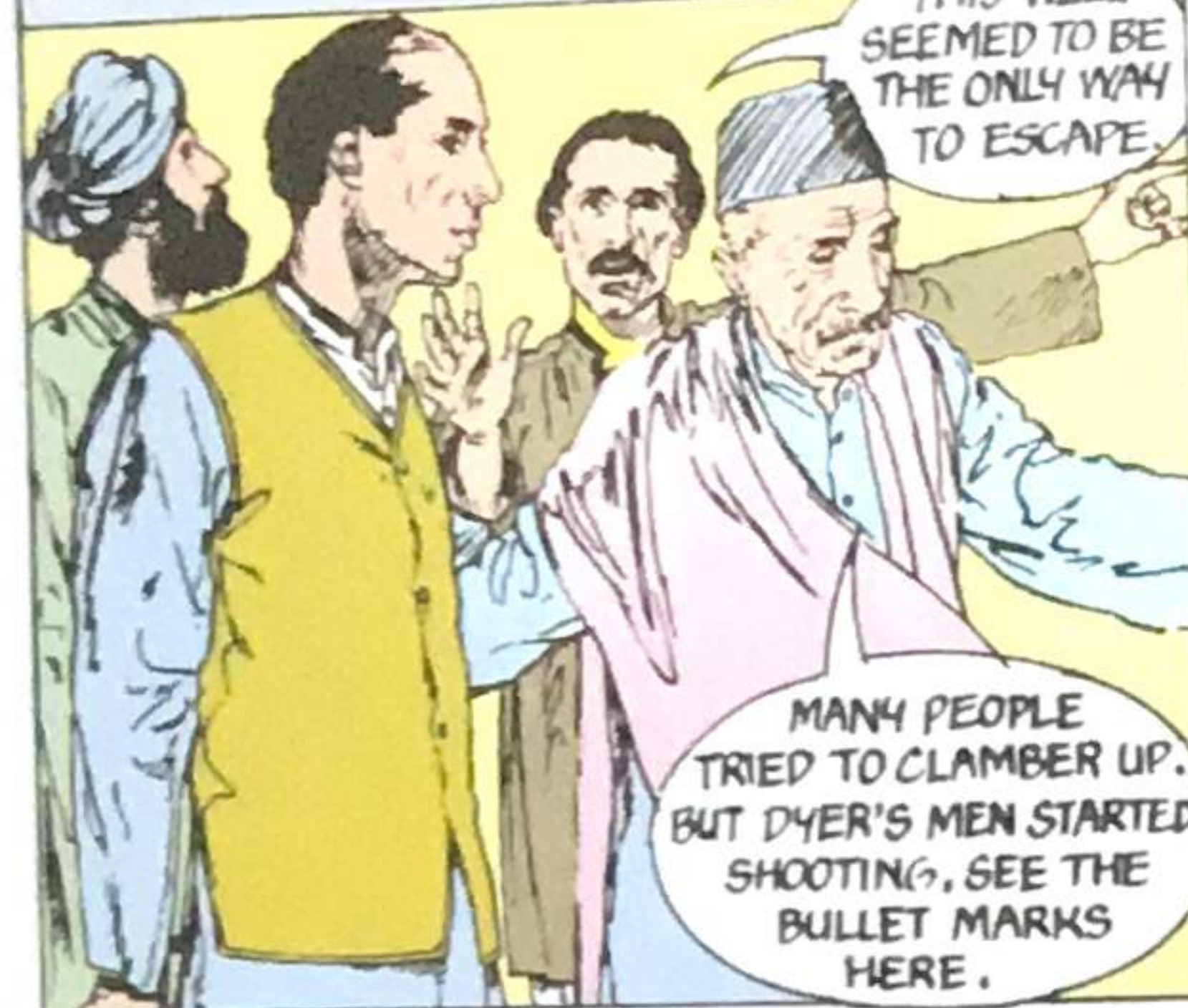
THE POLICE FIRED ON UNARMED DEMONSTRATORS, IN DELHI, AMRITSAR, LAHORE AND SEVERAL OTHER TOWNS. THE CROWDS RETALIATED BY RIOTING.



IN AMRITSAR GENERAL DYER, OPENED FIRE WITHOUT WARNING ON A LARGE CROWD AT JALLIANWALA BAGH, AN ENCLOSED SPACE WITH A SINGLE EXIT. A TERRIBLE MASSACRE TOOK PLACE.



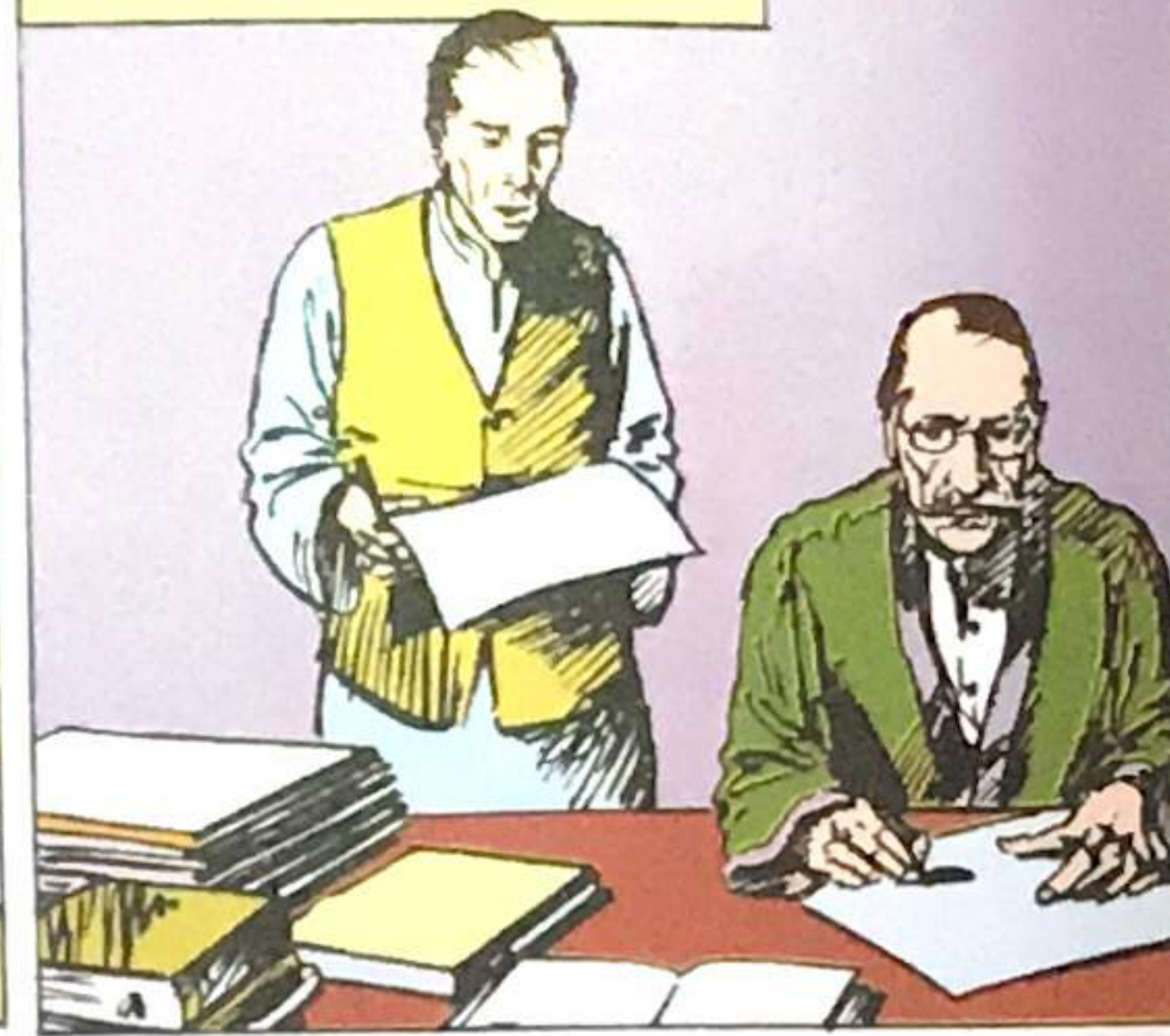
LATER JAWAHARLAL OFTEN VISITED THE JALLIAN-WALLA BAGH TO GATHER DETAILS.



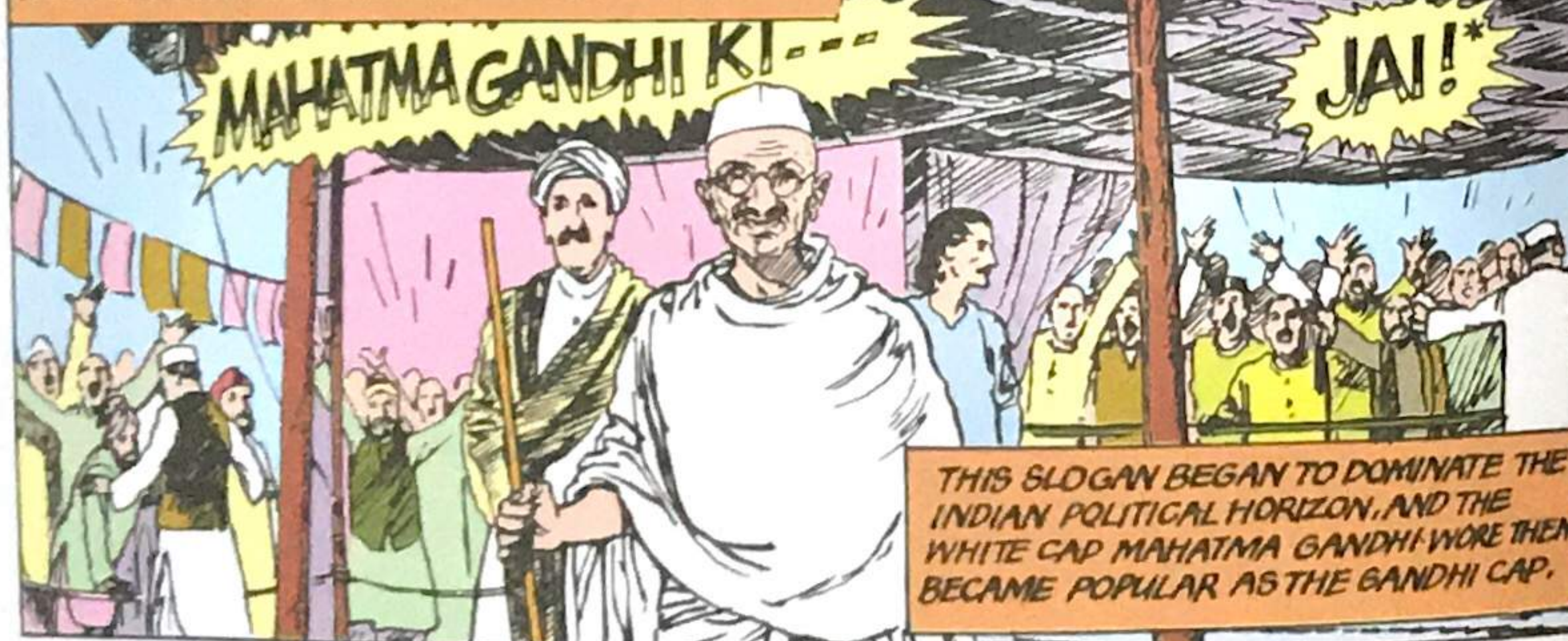
THIS WILL SEEMED TO BE THE ONLY WAY TO ESCAPE.

MANY PEOPLE TRIED TO CLAMBER UP. BUT DYER'S MEN STARTED SHOOTING. SEE THE BULLET MARKS HERE.

THE AFTERMATH OF THE PUNJAB ATROCITIES THREW BOTH FATHER AND SON INTO SUCH A FRENZY OF WORK THAT THEIR DIFFERENCES WERE SOON FORGOTTEN.



IN DECEMBER 1919, THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS MET AT AMRITSAR WITH MOTILAL NEHRU AS THE PRESIDENT. GANDHI WAS THE CENTRE OF ATTENTION.

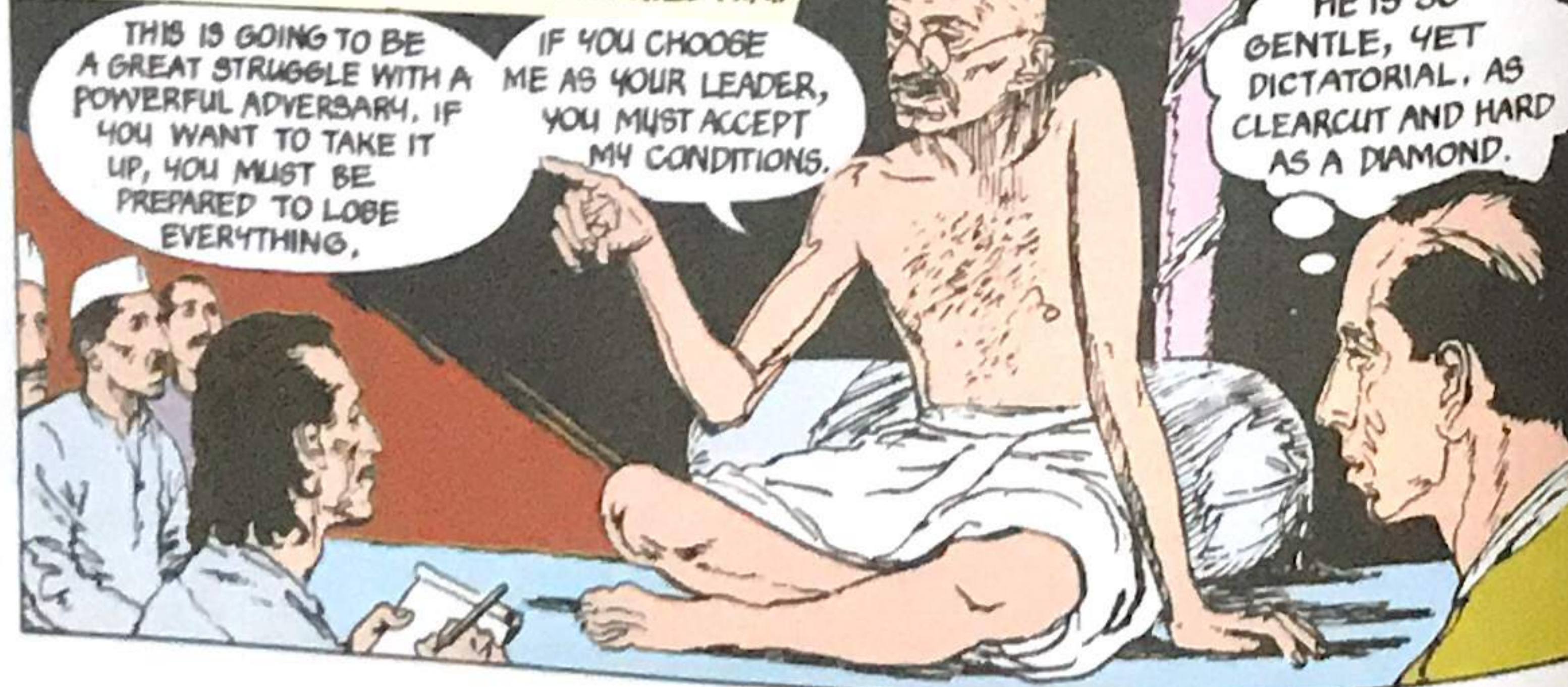


MAHATMA GANDHI KI...

JAI!

THIS SLOGAN BEGAN TO DOMINATE THE INDIAN POLITICAL HORIZON, AND THE WHITE CAP MAHATMA GANDHI WORE THEN BECAME POPULAR AS THE GANDHI CAP.

GANDHI BEGAN TO ADDRESS MORE AND MORE MEETINGS TO PROPAGATE HIS NON-VIOLENT, NON-CO-OPERATION METHOD. JAWAHARLAL OFTEN ACCOMPANIED HIM.



THIS IS GOING TO BE A GREAT STRUGGLE WITH A POWERFUL ADVERSARY. IF YOU WANT TO TAKE IT UP, YOU MUST BE PREPARED TO LOSE EVERYTHING.

IF YOU CHOOSE ME AS YOUR LEADER, YOU MUST ACCEPT MY CONDITIONS.

HE IS SO GENTLE, YET DICTATORIAL. AS CLEARCUT AND HARD AS A DIAMOND.

IN MAY 1920, JAWAHARLAL WAS IN MUSSOORIE WITH HIS WIFE AND MOTHER. BY CHANCE, A DELEGATION OF AFGHANS WAS IN THE HOTEL.



OH-OH! I'VE BEEN ORDERED TO LEAVE. THE BRITISH SUSPECT ME OF DEALING WITH THE AFGHANS. HOW RIDICULOUS!

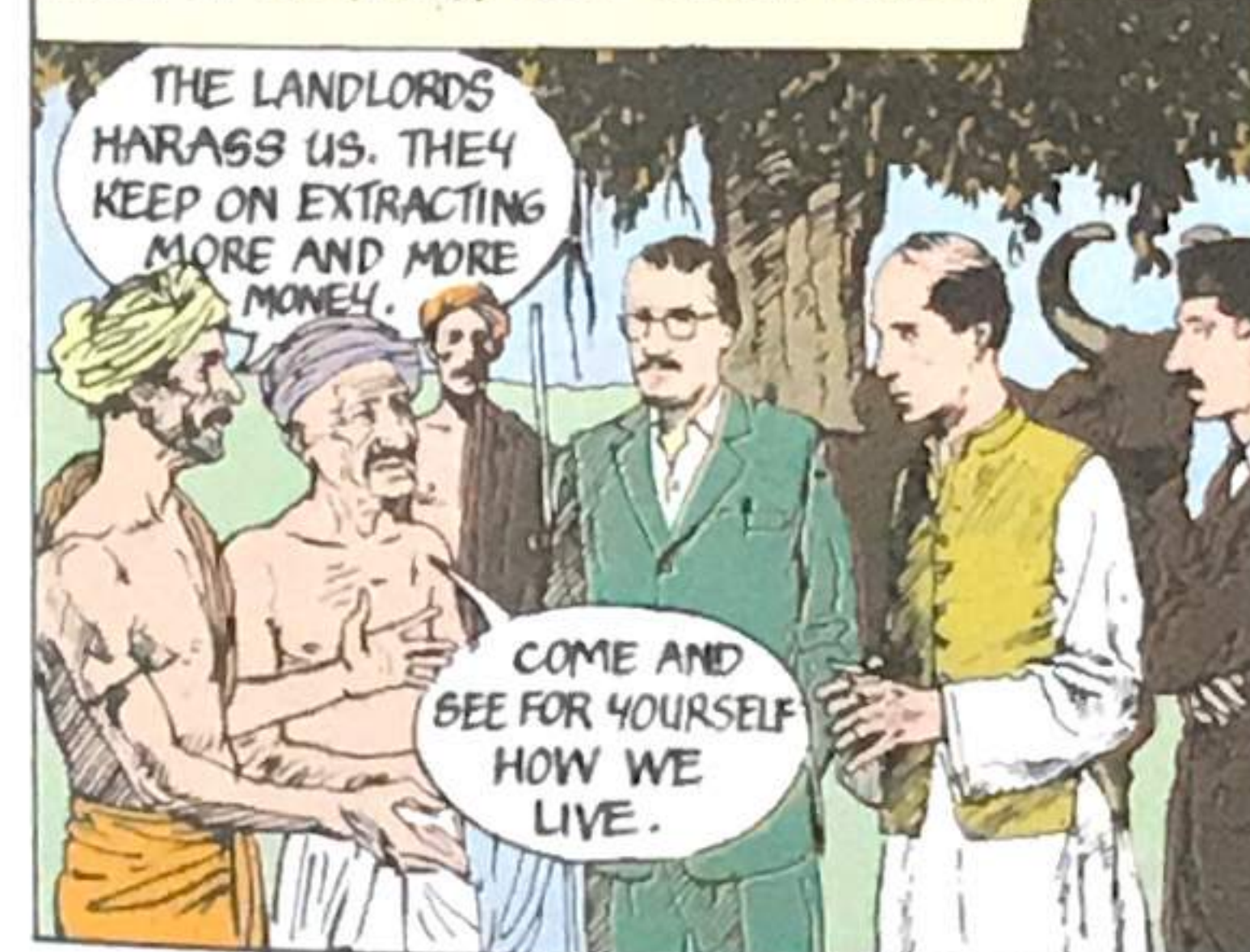
THE ORDER WAS CANCELLED 15 DAYS LATER, BUT THE EVENTS OF THE INTERVENING FORTNIGHT HAD A CRUCIAL INFLUENCE ON JAWAHARLAL'S LIFE. WHEN HE RETURNED TO ALLAHABAD—



HAVE YOU HEARD? ABOUT 200 PEASANTS HAVE MARCHED TO ALLAHABAD AND ARE CAMPING NEAR THE YAMUNA.

WHY ON EARTH?

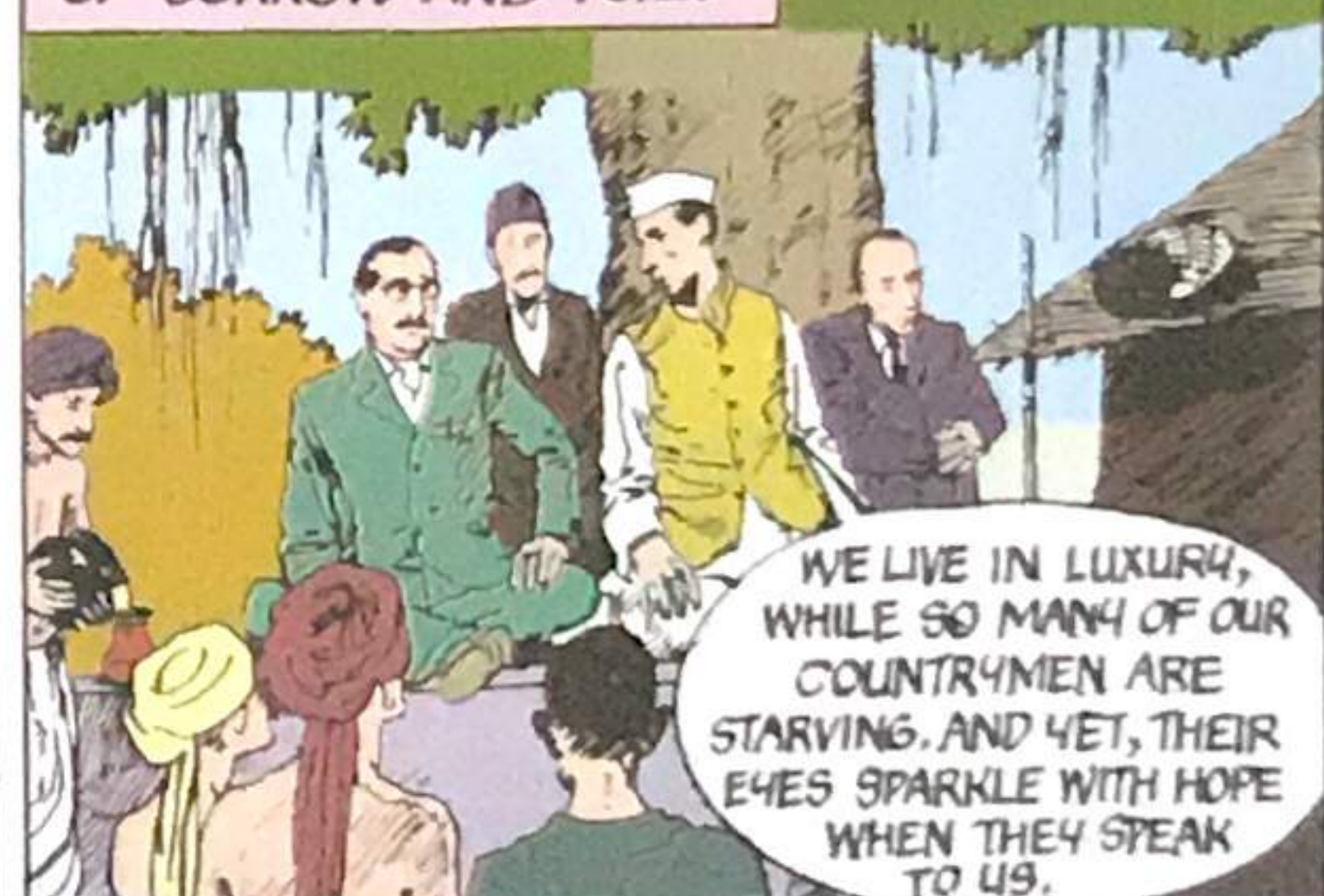
AS SOON AS JAWAHARLAL AND HIS FRIENDS MADE A FEW POLITE ENQUIRIES, THE PEASANTS BEGAN TO POUR OUT THEIR WOES.



THE LANDLORDS HARASS US. THEY KEEP ON EXTRACTING MORE AND MORE MONEY.

COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF HOW WE LIVE.

JAWAHARLAL VISITED THEIR VILLAGES. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE, HE WAS EXPOSED TO THEIR MISERABLE POVERTY; HEARD THE TALES OF SORROW AND TOIL.



WE LIVE IN LUXURY, WHILE SO MANY OF OUR COUNTRYMEN ARE STARVING. AND YET, THEIR EYES SPARKLE WITH HOPE WHEN THEY SPEAK TO US.

THE DIFFIDENT BOY WHO PAID A FINE RATHER THAN SPEAK IN PUBLIC, SPOKE NOW TO THE VILLAGERS WITHOUT A TRACE OF SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS.



SUCH FAITH! THEY THINK I GIVE THEM STRENGTH BUT IT IS THEY WHO INSPIRE ME!

THIS BEGAN HIS CLOSE IDENTIFICATION WITH THE MASSES OF INDIA. THE MAN OF DESTINY WHO LATER BECAME THE ARCHITECT OF MODERN INDIA HAD STEPPED INTO THE ARENA OF PUBLIC LIFE.